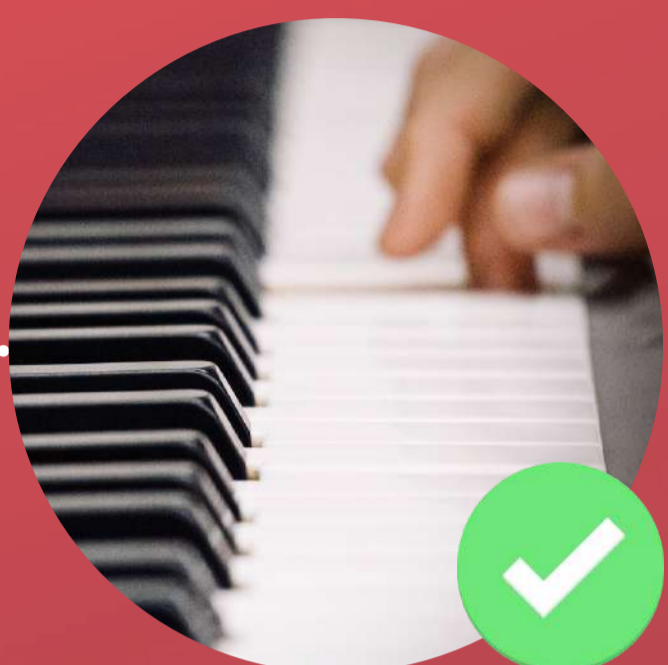
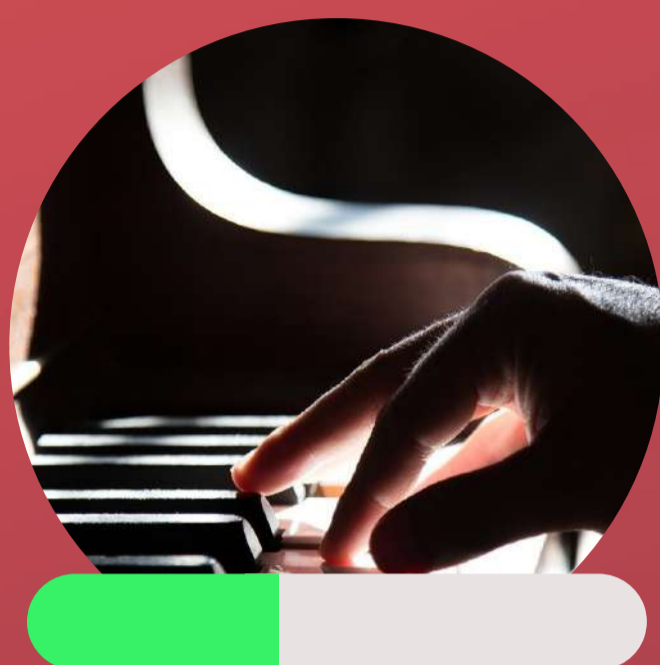


Week 1



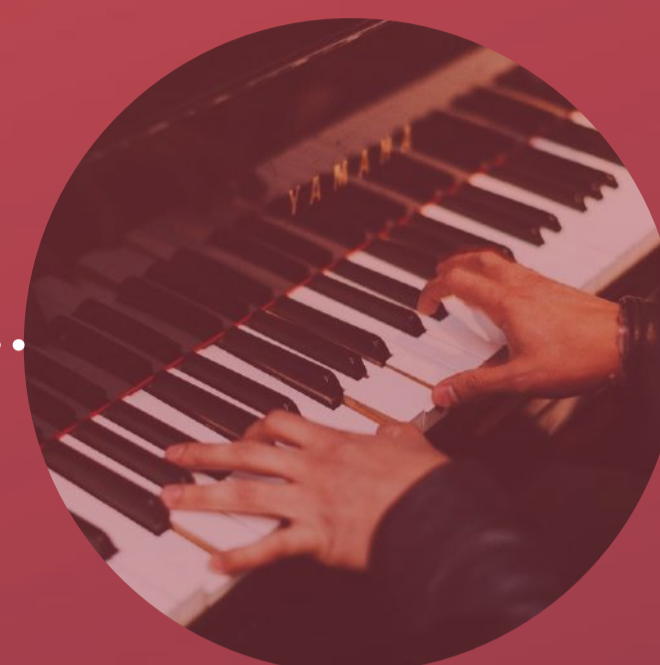
Week 2



Week 3



Week 4



Week 5



16 piano lessons for beginners (2 months)

**Theory, exercises, techniques and
songs**



La Touche Musicale

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Introduction

This guide is an 8-week piano lesson plan. It is specially designed for beginners. You will learn the basics of piano playing (positions, cues), how to play the right hand, how to play the left hand, scales, chords, fingering and rhythm. Each topic is covered in one week, and each week is divided into two lessons. Each lesson consists of a specific exercise, a song related to the exercise and the theme as well as memorization work. You can also, for each lesson, note your personal observations and the points to work on in priority on the Excel or CSV file attached to this guide.

By following this step-by-step plan, you will learn the basics of piano and will then be able to progress in the best conditions.

We also advise you to [sign up for free on the La Touche Musicale piano learning app](#) because the exercises and songs that we will make you work on will be done directly on the application. Indeed, this schedule is a theoretical guide, which will be completed by practical sessions directly on the La Touche Musicale application. Thanks to these two aspects (theory and practice), you will benefit from a complete learning experience.

Prerequisite

To take advantage of these courses, you must have :

- ✓ An account on the [La Touche Musicale app](#)
- ✓ A USB-connected piano/keyboard (see [our selection of the best pianos](#) if you are looking for one)
- ✓ A MIDI-USB cable to connect your piano to your device
- ✓ A device (computer, tablet or smartphone) with an internet connection

Week 1



Discovering the piano

Session 1 : The pianist's positions

Posture is the first point to address. Before touching the keyboard, it is important that you have a good posture, whether it is your seat, your elbows, your wrists or your fingers.

The placement on the keyboard

Start by positioning yourself in the center of the piano keyboard. The reference point is the note C in the middle of the keyboard, so your legs should straddle this note. The arms can then extend over the largest surface, the left arm towards the bass and the right arm towards the treble. This position will allow you to handle just about any situation because you are not far from any key on the piano. When you play certain pieces, you will sometimes move around because you will not be comfortable if the keys are too high or low. However, choosing the right middle position is always the best place to start when you are just starting out.



The posture of the body

Our posture at the piano is one of the most important elements in being comfortable while playing. If you have good posture, you won't be in pain and will be able to play much longer during each session.

Every time you sit down at your piano observe the 7 points below, making sure you are using your body optimally:

- 1- Sit in the middle of the instrument in front of middle C
- 2- Only sit on the edge of the seat (and not on the whole seat)
- 3- Place the seat so that you can move your arms sideways; if you have to cross them, there must be enough space in front of your stomach
- 4- The back is straight without stiffness, the shoulders are supported by the shoulder blades. The pelvis is tilted forward.

5- The elbow forms almost a right angle, and follows the movement of the arm in everything it does, following the direction indicated by the placement of the hand on the keyboard.

6- The wrist is in the extension of the forearm, always flexible, but without bending excessively downwards or upwards.

7- The legs are flat on the floor. For children whose legs do not yet reach the ground, you can put a support under their feet to compensate for the difference in height. Do not cross your legs, as this would affect your stability and center of gravity.



Photo Credit: www.JTony.com

Forearms at the right height

Your position must allow the arms to bend at a good angle (without reaching the right angle) with the fingers of the hand above the keyboard. The front arms are neither too high nor too low. The reference point is the height of the elbows which should be at the same level as the keyboard. This makes it easier for the fingers to work. This position should feel natural to you, without heaviness and constraint on the arm, wrist or hand.



In the picture above, the position is good because the elbows are at the level of the piano keyboard and the forearms slightly above.

The position of the wrists

To place your hands properly on the piano, you must place your fingertips on the keyboard and raise your wrist slightly. Your wrist should not be under the piano but slightly above it in order to have maximum ease in your various movements.



Once you have this starting position, you can start playing. It is now important to bend your fingers to give you more agility in your movement.



The picture above shows the correct position to adopt for maximum ease of use. You should have both hands relaxed and resting on the keyboard, fingers slightly extended and lightly touching the keys. The wrists should not be under the hands or under the piano.

This ideal position allows you to avoid muscular and articular pains. If you play for a long time with an incorrect hand and finger position, it can lead to tendonitis and other problems.

Practice touching the piano keyboard with all these positions before starting the second session. You will feel much more comfortable with the rest of the lessons once you have mastered these positions.

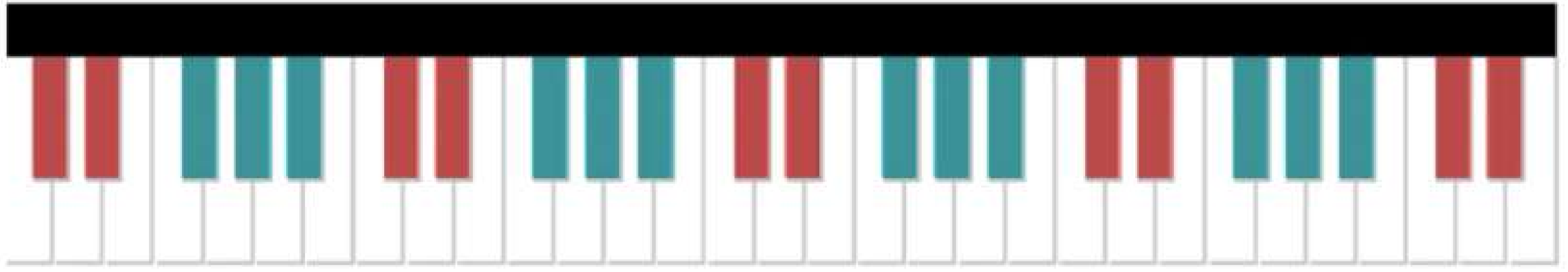
Session 2: Finding your way around a piano keyboard

Before practicing or playing songs on the piano, it is very important to know how to find your way around the keyboard. That is, to know which key corresponds to which note. This way, you will be much more comfortable with the notions that we will discuss later in these lessons.

Understanding the logic of the piano keys

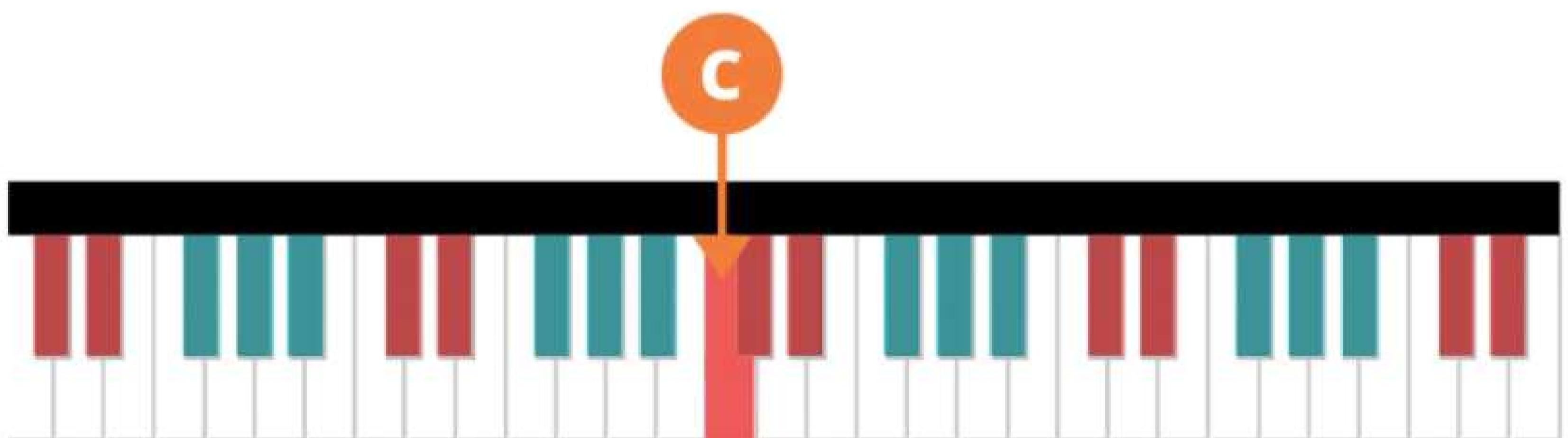
The piano is a musical instrument that has been designed according to logical, even mathematical rules. When you stand in front of a piano, you may be intimidated by the number of keys (88 for the largest). You don't know what to do and that's normal. In this part, we will dissect together the white and black keys of the piano. This is one of the most fundamental bases of the piano.

You will notice that a piano, regardless of its size, whether it is a digital or acoustic piano, always has the same sequence of notes. To make it easier, you can pay attention to the black keys of the piano: you can see that the sequence is always the same: 2 black keys, then 3 black keys. This sequence is repeated in a loop until you reach the end of the piano.



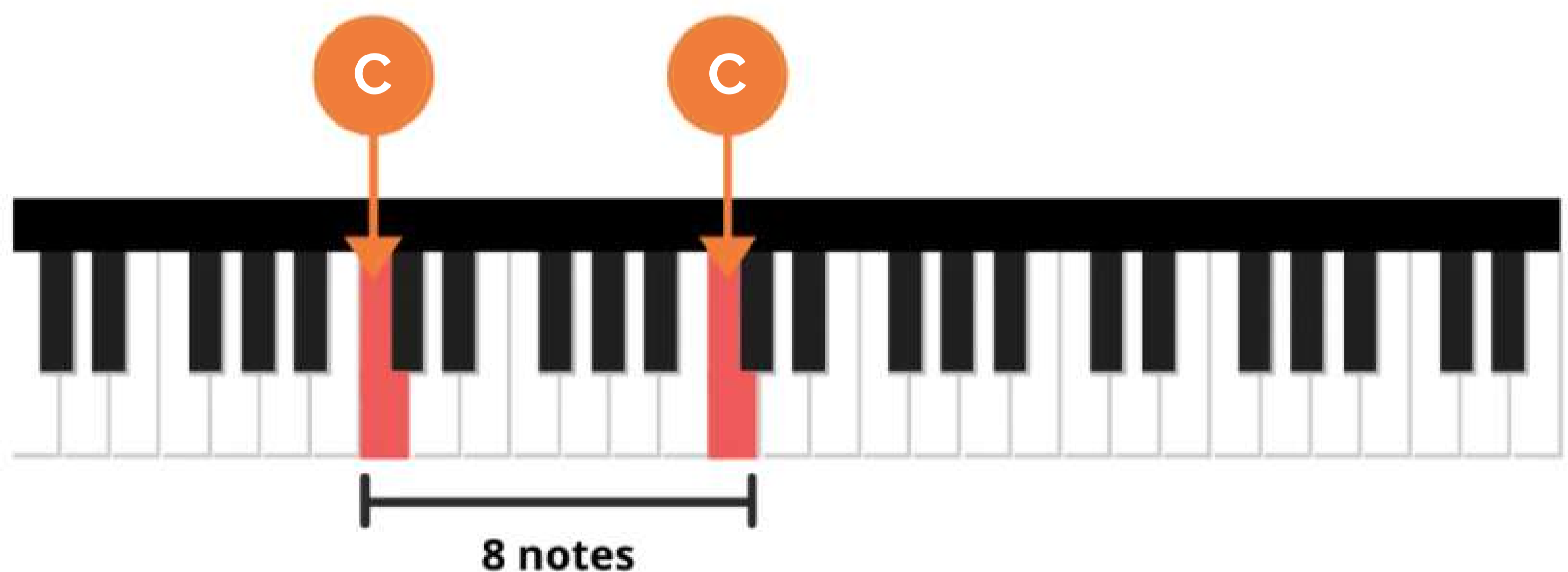
When looking for a note on the piano, use the black keys to find it. For example, if you are looking for a C, you should:

- 1 - look at the sequence of black keys;
- 2 - stop when you are on a group of two successive black keys.
- 3 - choose the white key just to the left of these two black keys:
this is your C.

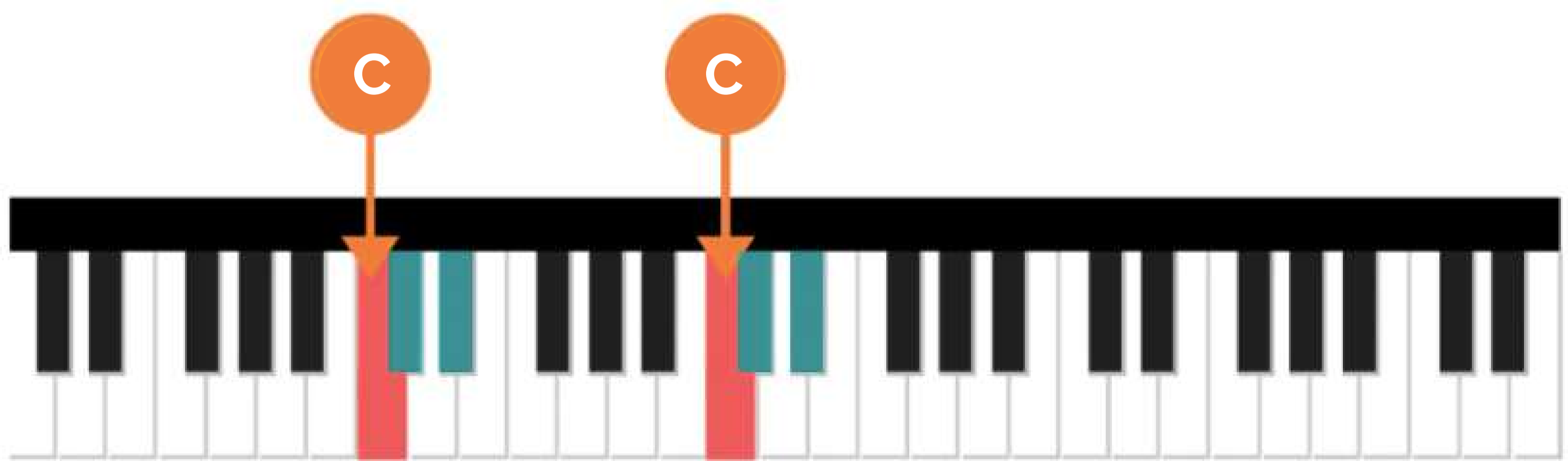


Understanding the concept of octaves

In music, an octave is an interval between two notes separated by eight notes. The octave is the consonant interval because two notes in an octave are identical. For example, when you press the note G, count eight notes on the left side of the piano to get to G and move down an octave. Conversely, count eight notes on the right side of the piano to reach G and move up an octave. From a sound engineering point of view, when you move from one octave to the next, the frequency is doubled.



To help you, you can use the black key pattern mentioned above. You can see that they are the same note because they are both located just to the left of the group of two black keys.



Octaves allow you to know the structure of the piano and to play accordingly. It is important to know that a piano piece can be played in all octaves. The piece will sound the same, but will have a higher or lower pitch depending on the octave you choose.

It is also important to know that an octave contains all the notes: C, D, E, F, G, A, B and C. When you move up to the next octave, you reproduce the exact same sequence of notes but with a higher pitch. That's why octaves are part of the piano's basics.

Associate the piano keys with the corresponding notes

The diagram below shows you all the different notes found on your piano keyboard. The sequences of notes are repeated each time you move up an octave. This note chart is essential to understanding how the spacing between notes determines the sounds you make when you play, especially for piano chords. The different keys on a piano keyboard can be summarized as follows:



The note C in the middle always determines the center key of a piano keyboard. It should be used as a reference to help you locate the note you are playing.

It is important to know the location and name of the keys that make up each octave because you will often find them in the various exercises, lessons or tutorials that you will follow while learning the piano.

Standard piano notes

When you look at the picture of the piano key chart above, you'll notice that there are two types of notes: standard notes (at the bottom of the picture) and notes containing #s (at the top of the picture).

The standard notes are all white and all have names that identify them, from C to B.

The sharp notes

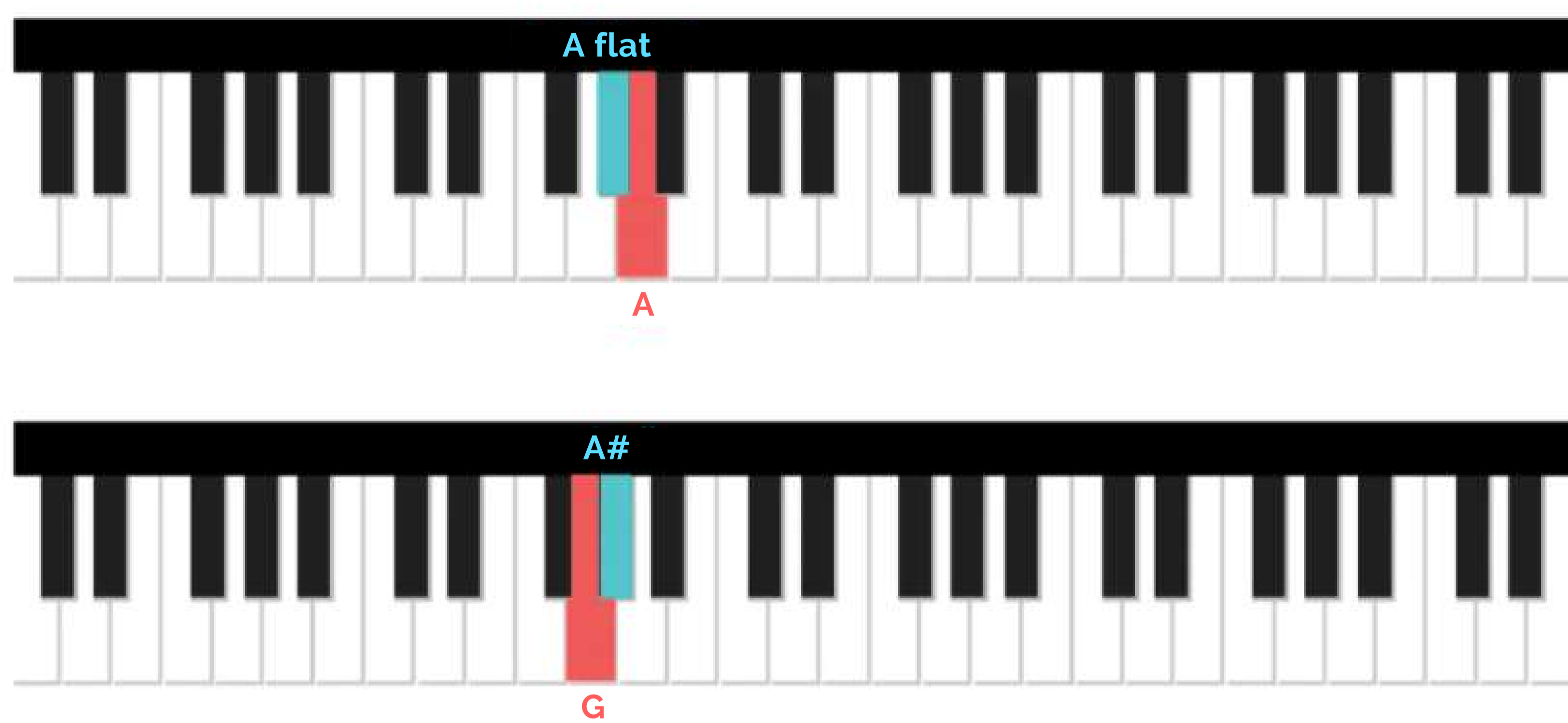
Conversely, notes containing # correspond only to black notes. They have the same name as the white notes. When you look at a white note with a name (C, D, E, ...), the black key just to the right of it will have the same name, followed by a #, which is pronounced "sharp".

The flat notes

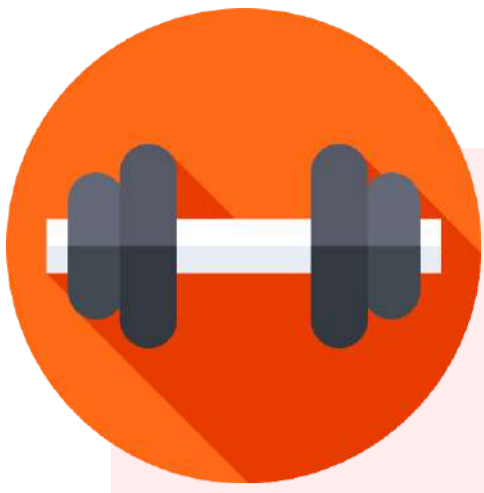
The black keys can also have another name. Depending on what you play, they will be called "sharp" or "flat". How do you know what to call them? It depends on the white note you played just before. If you move to the left side of the piano, it will be a flat. If you move to the right, it will be a #.

To help you understand, let's take the example of the black note in the middle of a group of 3 black notes. If you played the A note just before, the black note will be an A flat, because you moved to the left.

If you played the G note just before, that same black note will be an A#, because you moved to the right.

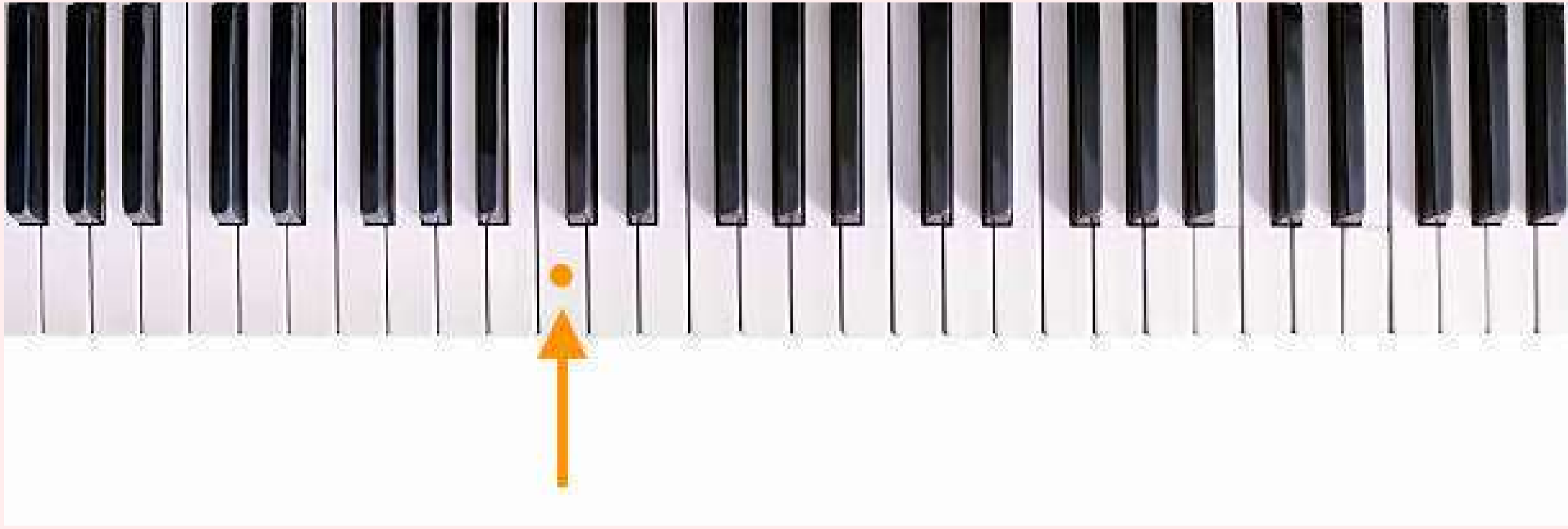


Now you know everything you need to know to find your way around a piano keyboard and associate each key with a note. Let's move on to some exercises.

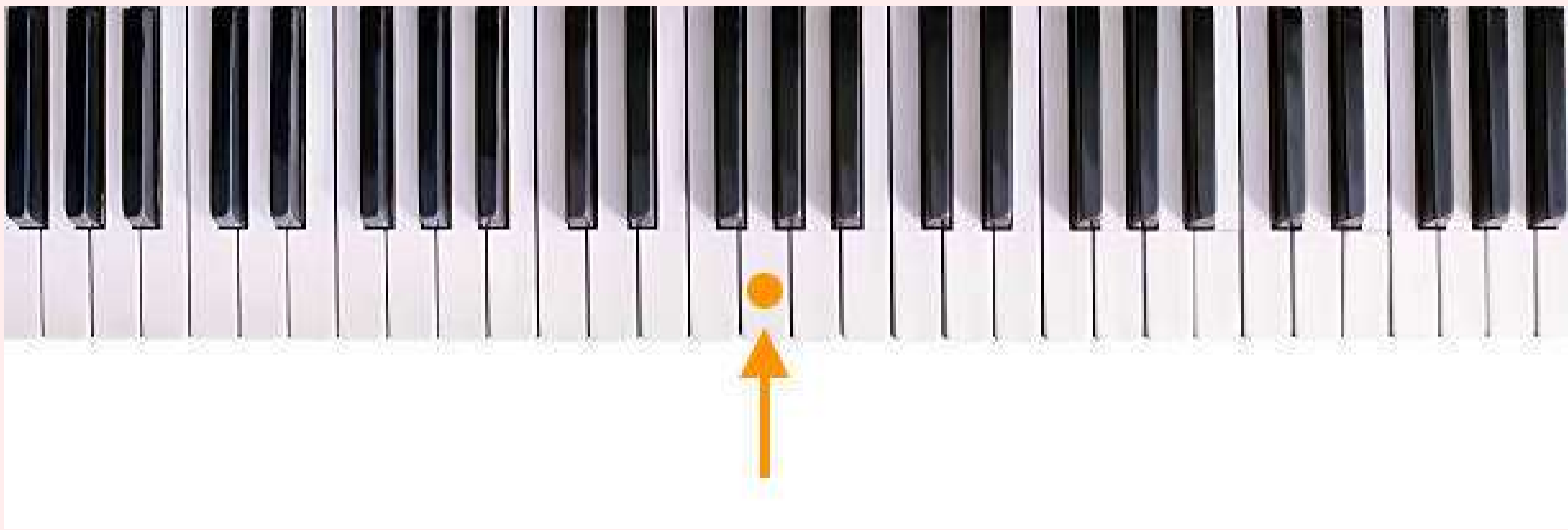


EXERCISES

Find the notes of the corresponding keys.



Answer: C



Answer: G



Answer: C# (sharp)

Week 2



Playing with the right hand

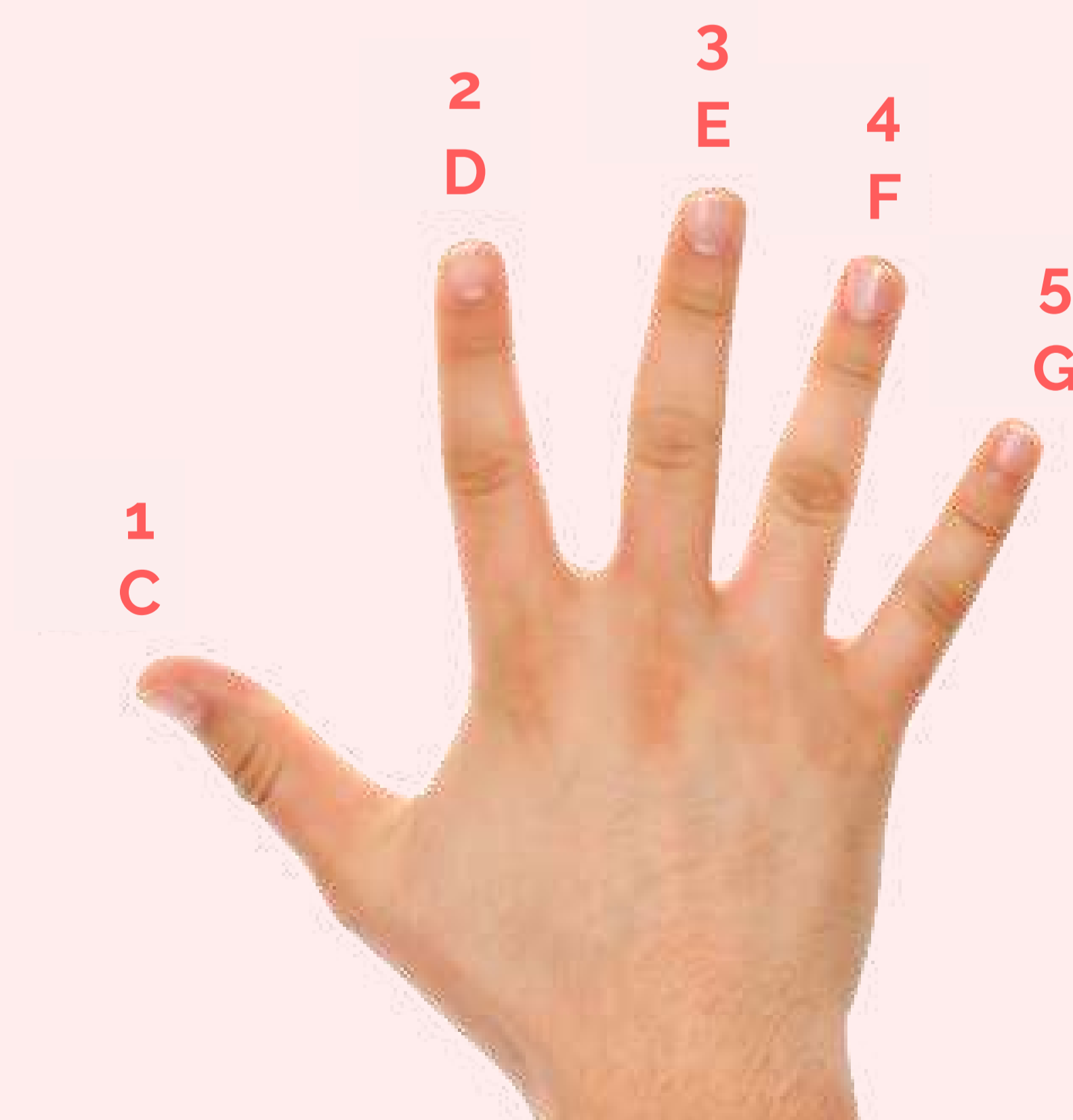
Session 3: Playing five notes in a row - right hand

Now that you know how to associate each key of a piano with the corresponding note, we can start practicing. The goal of this third session is to have you play 5 keys in a row.



EXERCISES

Play C, D, E, F and G in a row on your keyboard with your right hand, using respectively: thumb for C, index finger for D, middle finger for E, ring finger for F and little finger for G.





Once you have done this exercise, go back down using the same fingers for the same keys.



Repeat this 5-note rise + 5-note fall for about ten minutes with your right hand. Your sequences should become fluid.

To help you practice this exercise, you can download our MIDI file below and import it into the [La Touche Musicale app](#) to play it with an interactive lesson.

[DOWNLOAD THE EXERCISE IN MIDI](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



Ludwig Van Beethoven

Ode to Joy

Informations

Genre : classical music

Difficulty: easy

Status : free

Setup

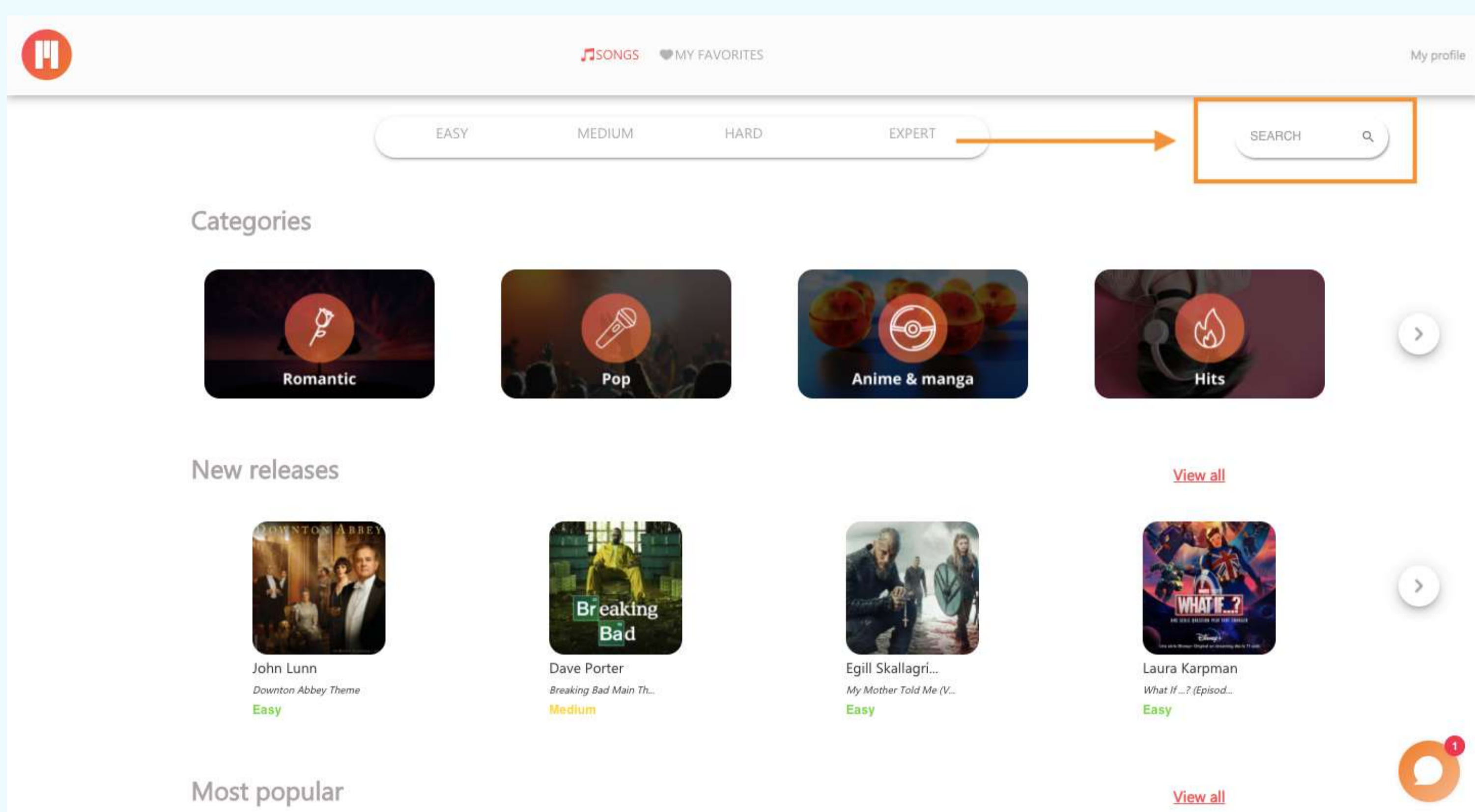
USB connection of the piano

Learning mode

Disable the left hand

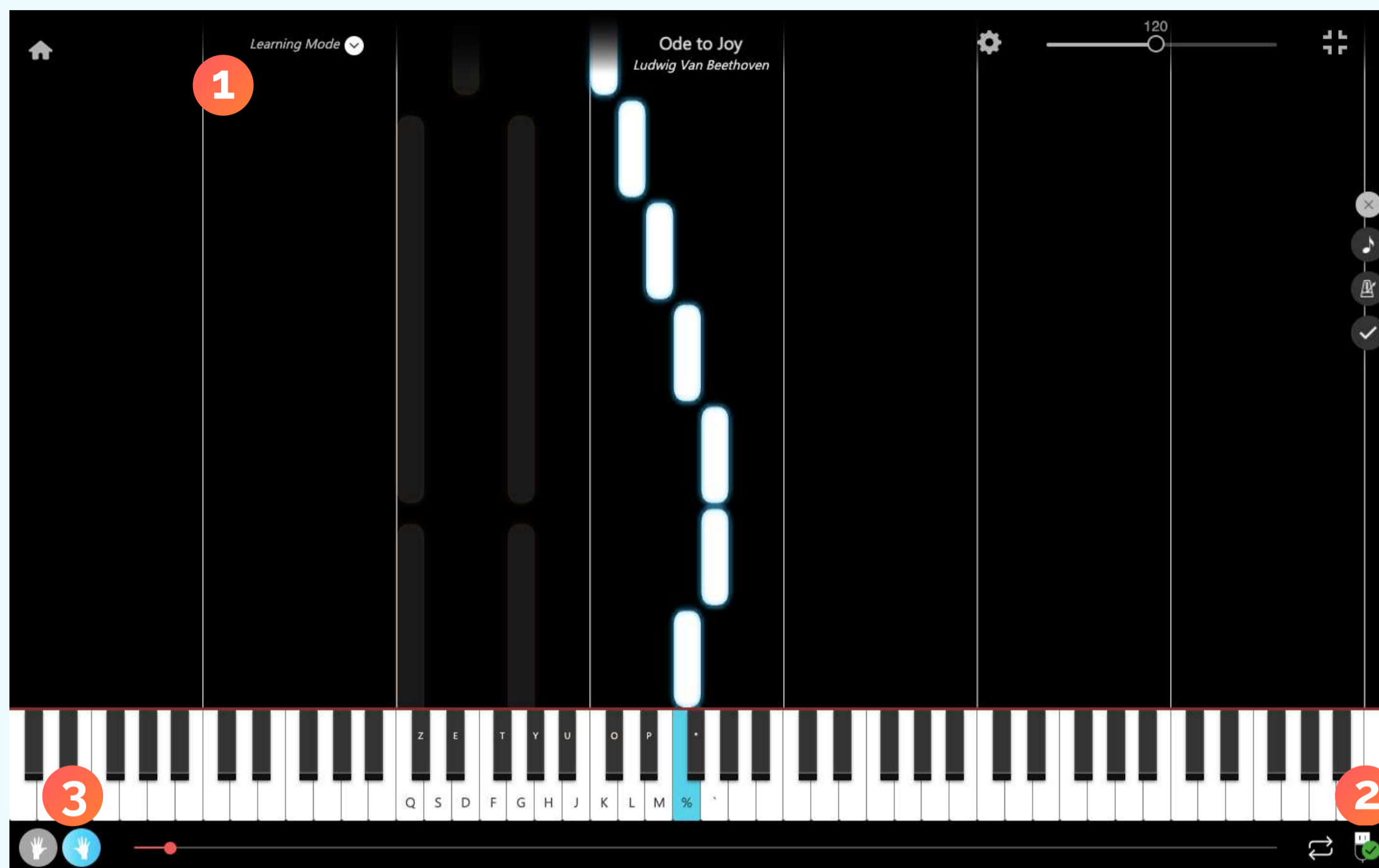


Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. [Sign up for free](#) on La Touche Musicale and go to the song Ode to Joy by Beethoven (you will not be able to access the song without creating an account). Use the search bar at the top right to find it.



[Go to Ode to Joy.](#)

Once in front of the song's tutorial, connect your piano to USB, activate the learning mode and deactivate the left hand. Practice the first notes of Ode to Joy with your right hand for 15-20 minutes using the learning mode.



- 1 Learning mode activated
- 2 Piano connected
- 3 Left hand disabled



MEMORIZATION

Once you've gotten your bearings by playing the first few notes of Ode to Joy, we'll do a memorization exercise. Your goal is to try to play the first 10 notes of the song with your right hand from memory, without looking at the screen and the app. Do the exercise for about 10 minutes.

Session 4: Playing eight notes in a row - right hand

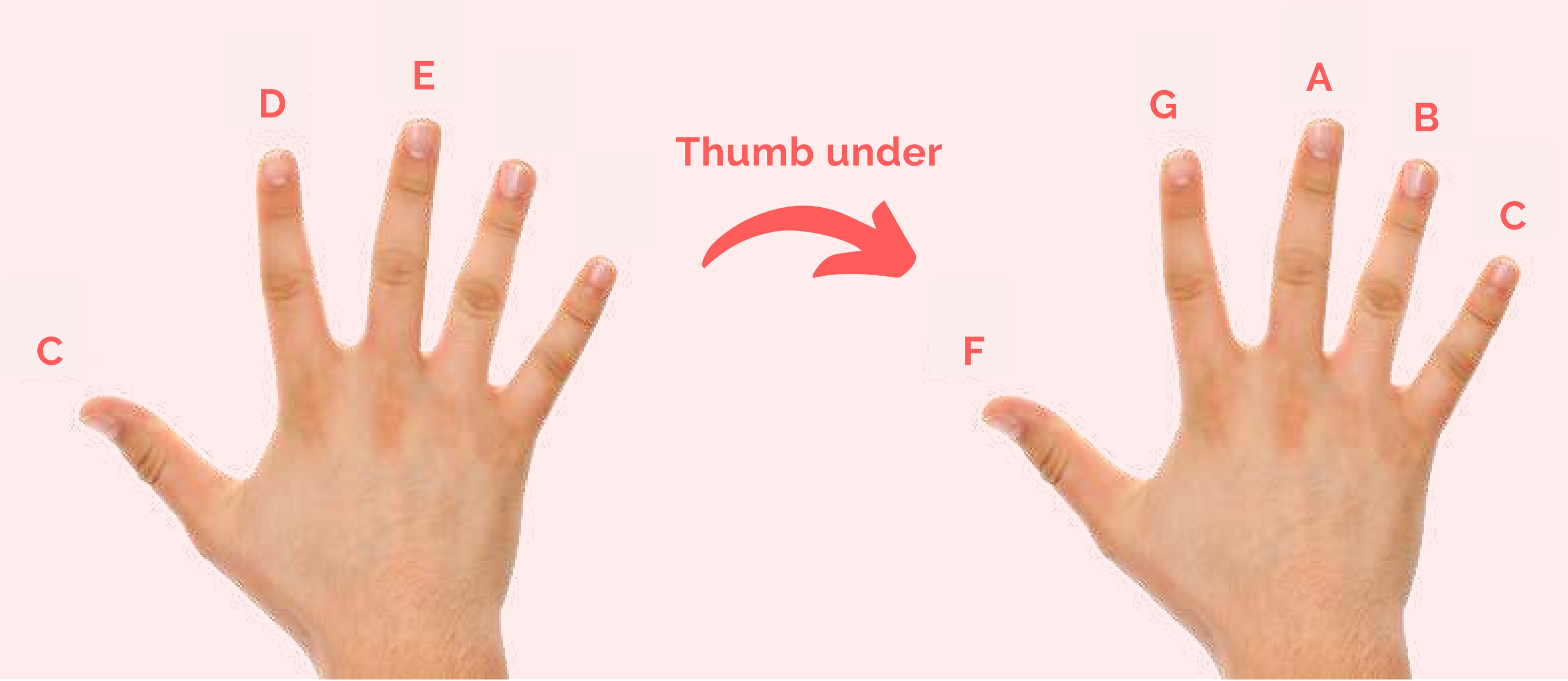
In the last session, we saw how to play 5 keys in a row with the right hand. The idea now is to play 8 notes in a row. This exercise is more complicated because it requires a technique called "thumb passing" to be done correctly.



EXERCISES

Play C, D, E, F, G, A, B and C in a row on your keyboard with your right hand, using respectively: thumb for C, index finger for D, middle finger for E, thumb for F, index finger for G, middle finger for A, ring finger for E and little finger for C.

To do this successfully, you will have to do the thumb shift: when you move from the middle finger to the thumb, you have to make a slight pivot and move your thumb under your middle finger so that it can reach the next note smoothly.





Once you have done this exercise, go back down using the same fingers for the same keys: little finger on C, ring finger on B, middle finger on A, index finger on G, thumb on F, middle finger on E, index finger on D, thumb on C.

To move from thumb to middle finger on your downstroke, you will have to rotate your wrist to the left to move your middle finger over your thumb to reach the next note.



Repeat this 8-note rise + 8-note fall for about ten minutes with your right hand. Pay particular attention to the passage of the thumb on the upstroke and the middle finger on the downstroke.

To help you practice this exercise, you can download our MIDI file below and import it into the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play it with an interactive lesson.

[DOWNLOAD THE EXERCISE IN MIDI](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



Ludwig Van Beethoven

Ode to Joy

Informations

Genre : classical music

Difficulty: easy

Status : free

Configuration

USB connection of the piano

Learning mode

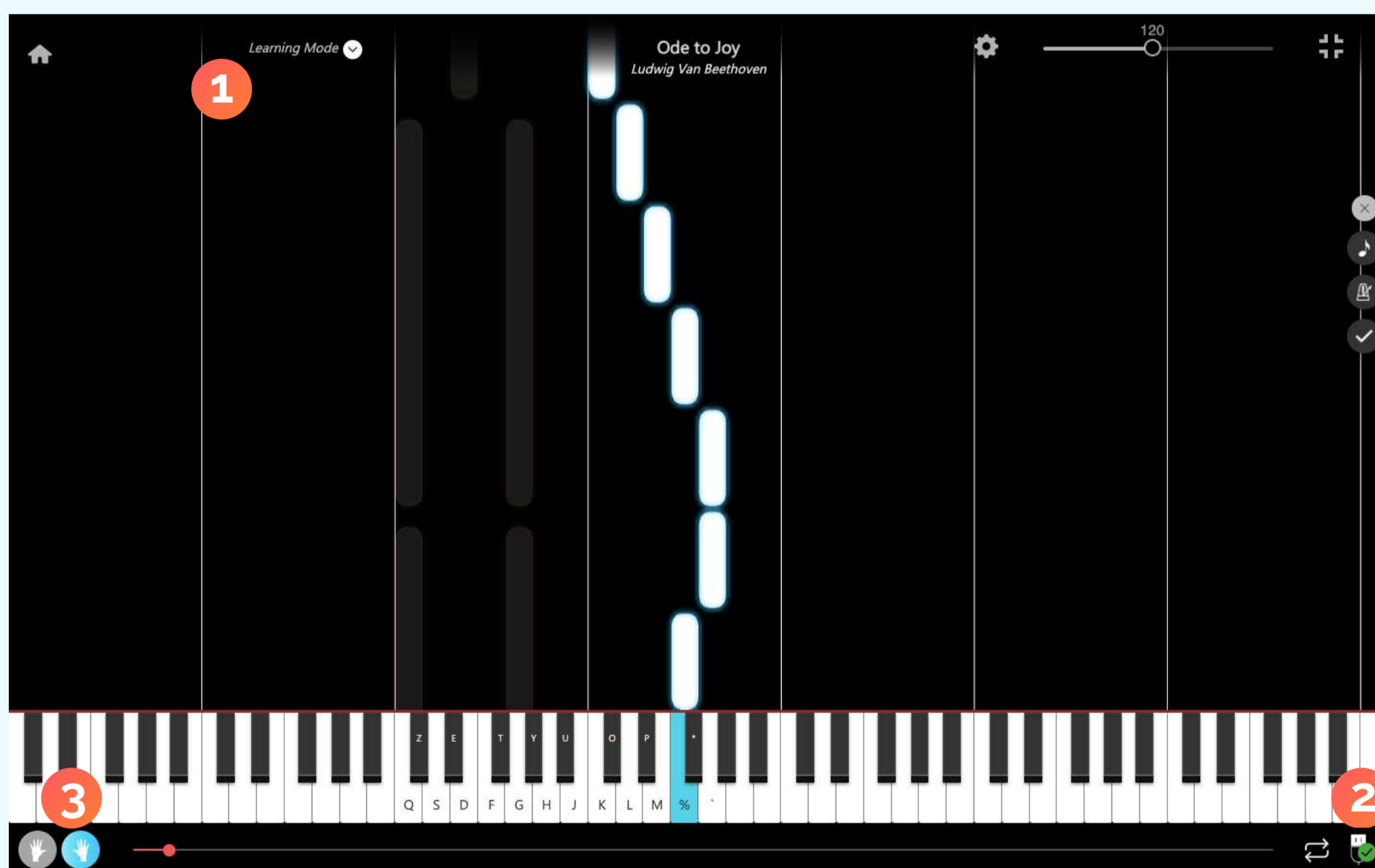
Disable the left hand



Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. [Sign up for free](#) on La Touche Musicale and go to the song Ode to Joy by Beethoven (you will not be able to access the song without creating an account). Use the search bar at the top right to find it.

[Go to Ode to Joy.](#)

Once in front of the song tutorial, connect your piano to USB, activate the learning mode and deactivate the left hand. Practice for 15-20 minutes all the notes of Ode to Joy with your right hand using the learning mode.



- 1 Learning mode activated
- 2 Piano connected
- 3 Left hand disabled



MEMORIZATION

In your last memorization exercise, you learned the first 10 notes of the right hand of Ode to Joy by memory. In this exercise, your goal is to play all the notes of the right hand of the song without looking at the screen. Do this exercise for about ten minutes (you can use the app if you get lost at certain moments).

Week 3



Playing with the left hand

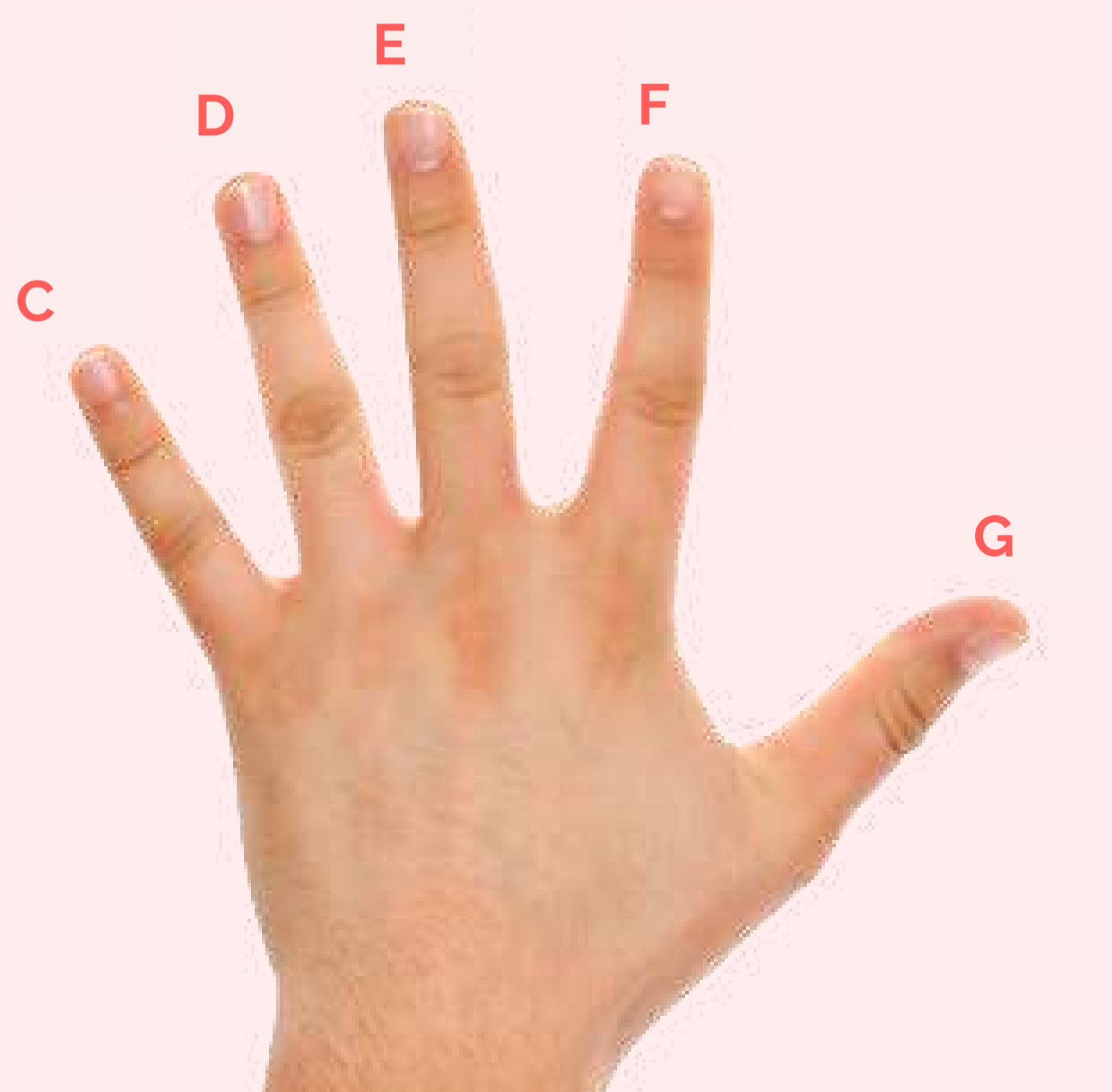
Session 5: Playing five notes in a row - left hand

Now that you know how to play with your right hand, it's time to learn how to use your left hand. The left hand usually sets the tempo and forms the accompaniment of the song, so its use is paramount. The exercises will be similar to those for the right hand.



EXERCISES

Play C, D, E, F and G in a row on your keyboard with your left hand, using your little finger for C, ring finger for D, middle finger for E, index finger for F and thumb for G.





Once you have done this exercise, go back down using the same fingers for the same keys.



Repeat this 5-note rise + 5-note fall for about ten minutes with your left hand. Your sequences should become fluid.

To help you practice this exercise, you can download our MIDI file below and import it into the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play it with an interactive lesson.

[DOWNLOAD THE EXERCISE IN MIDI](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



Ludwig Van Beethoven

Ode to Joy

Informations

Genre : classical music

Difficulty: easy

Status : free

Configuration

USB connection of the piano

Learning mode

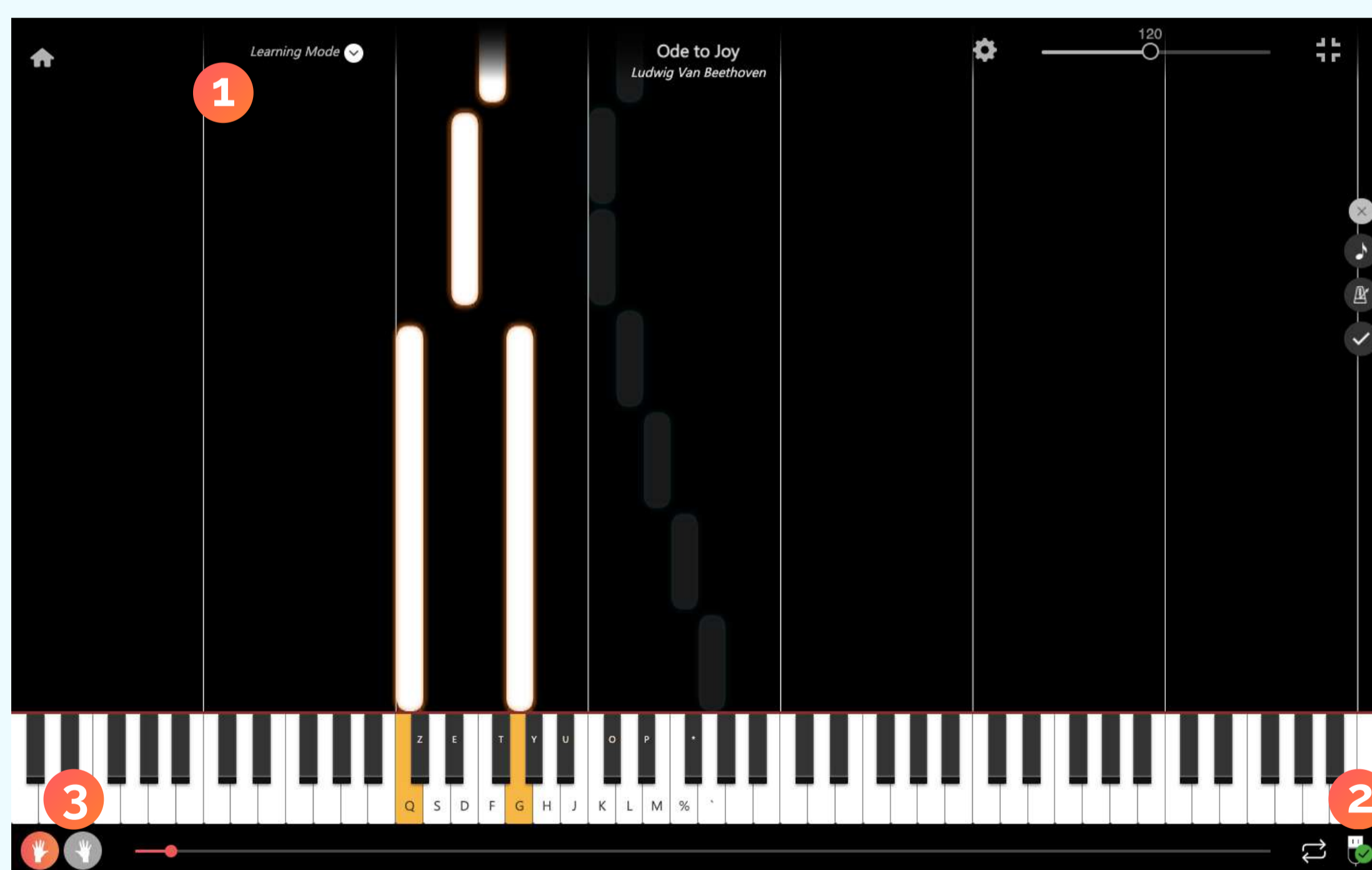
Disable the right hand



Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. [Sign up for free](#) on La Touche Musicale and go to the song Ode to Joy by Beethoven (you will not be able to access the song without creating an account). Type "Ode to Joy" in the search bar at the top right to play it.

Go to Ode to Joy.

Once in front of the song's tutorial, connect your piano to USB, activate the learning mode and deactivate the right hand. Practice the first notes of Ode to Joy with your left hand for 15-20 minutes using the learning mode.



1 Learning mode activated

2 Piano connected

3 Right hand disabled



MEMORIZATION

Once you've gotten your bearings by playing the first few notes of Ode to Joy with your left hand, we're going to do a memorization exercise. Your goal is to try to play the first 10 notes of the song with your left hand from memory, without looking at the screen and the app. Do the exercise for about 10 minutes.

Session 6: Playing eight notes in a row - left hand

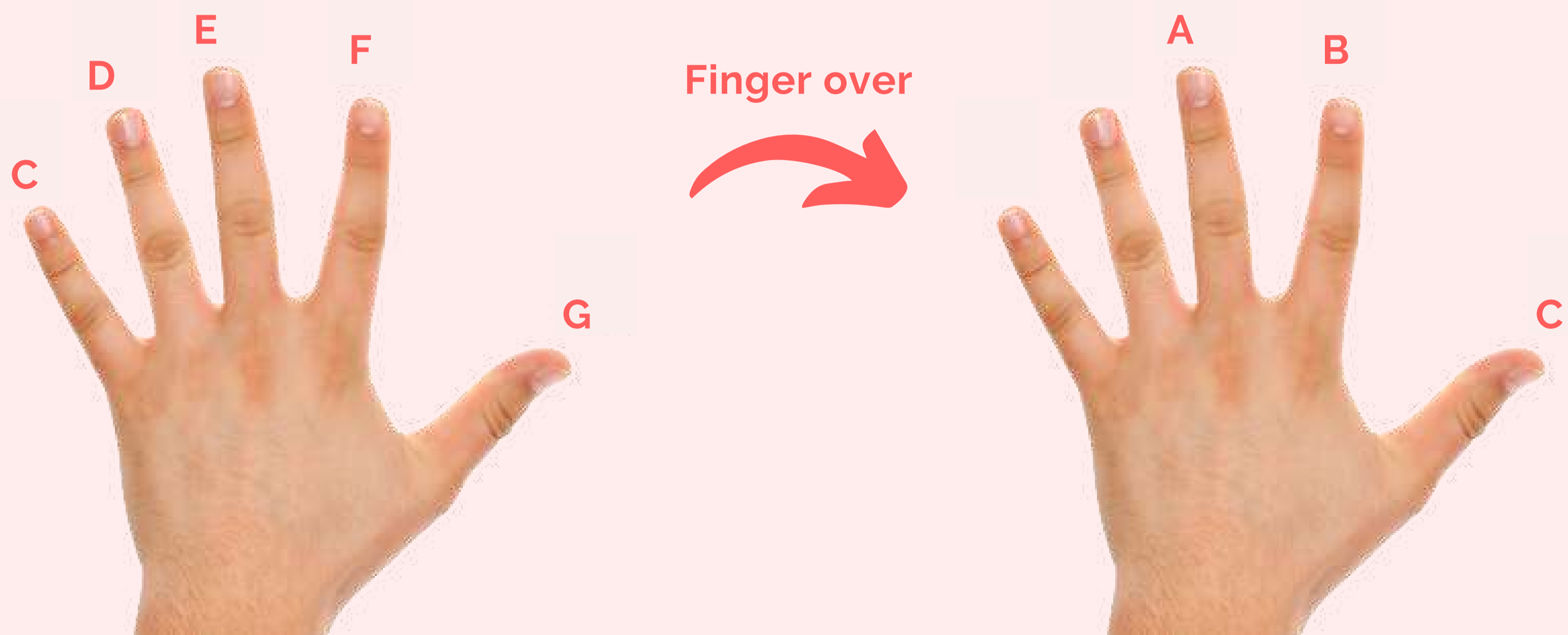
In the last session, we saw how to play 5 keys in a row with the left hand. The idea now is to play 8 notes in a row. Don't forget that there is always the thumb and middle finger passage for this part!



EXERCISES

Play C, D, E, F, G, A, B and C in a row on your keyboard with your left hand, using respectively: the little finger for C, the ring finger for D, the middle finger for E, the index finger for F, the thumb for G, the middle finger for A, the index finger for E and the thumb for C.

To do this successfully, you'll need to do the finger over with your middle finger: when you switch from thumb to middle finger, you need to pivot your wrist slightly to the left and move your middle finger over your thumb so that it can reach the next note smoothly.



Once you have done this exercise, go back down using the same fingers for the same keys: thumb on C, index finger on B, middle finger on A, thumb on G, index finger on F, middle finger on E, ring finger on D, little finger on C.

To go from the middle finger to the thumb on your downstroke, you will have to rotate your wrist to the right to put your thumb under your middle finger to reach the next note.



Repeat this 8-note rise + 8-note fall for about ten minutes with your left hand. Apply yourself particularly to the passage of the middle finger on the upstroke and the thumb on the downstroke.

To help you practice this exercise, you can download our MIDI file below and import it into the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play it with an interactive lesson.

[DOWNLOAD THE EXERCISE IN MIDI](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



Ludwig Van Beethoven

Ode to Joy

Informations

Genre : classical music

Difficulty: easy

Status : free

Setup

USB connection of the piano

Learning mode

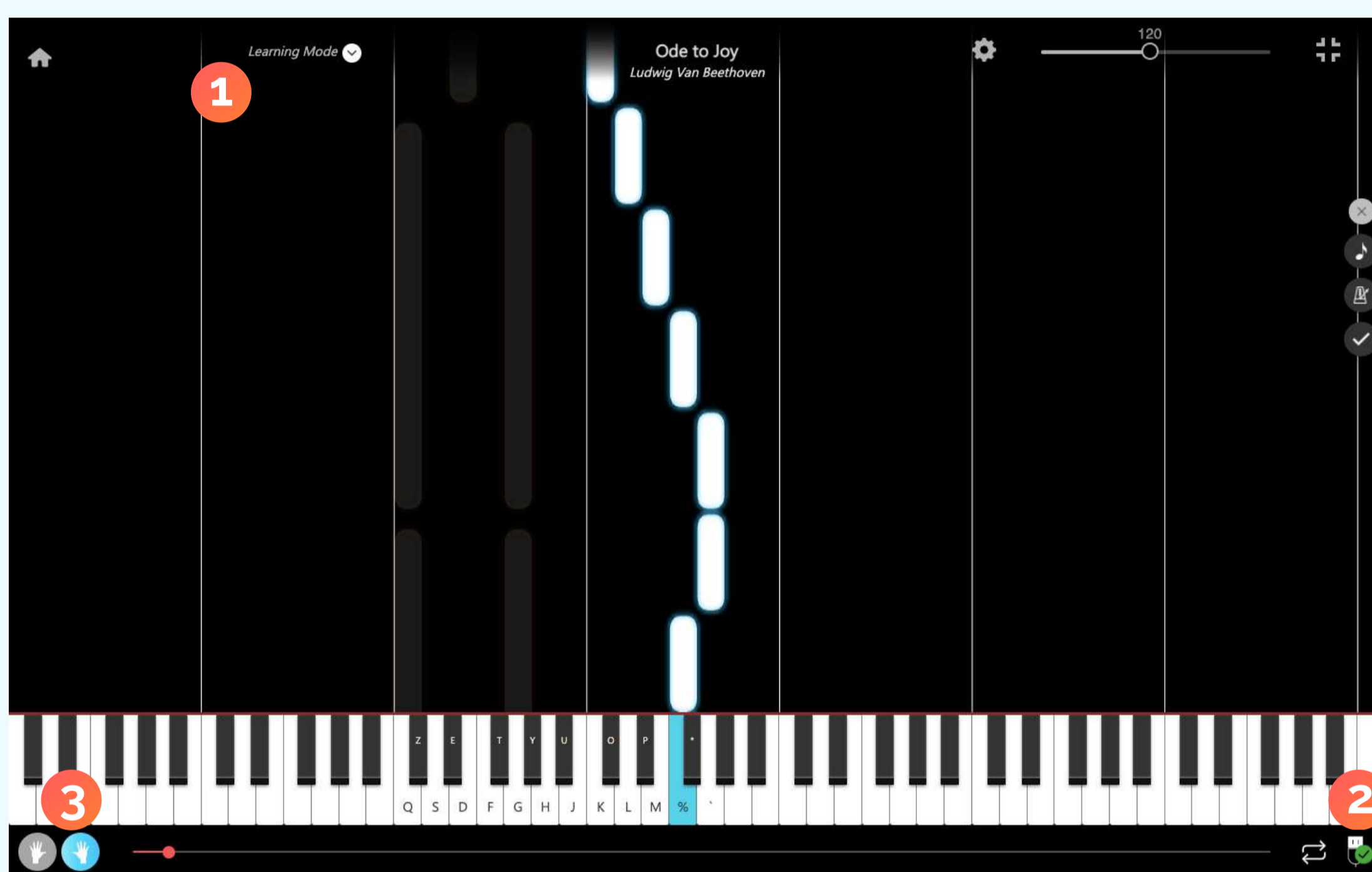
Disable the left hand

Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. [Sign up for free](#) on La Touche Musicale and go to the song Ode to Joy by Beethoven (you will not be able to access the song without creating an account). Type "Ode to Joy" in the search box at the top right to find it.

[Go to Ode to Joy.](#)



Once in front of the song tutorial, connect your piano to USB, activate the learning mode and deactivate the left hand. Practice for 15-20 minutes all the notes of Ode to Joy with your right hand using the learning mode.



- 1 Learning mode activated
- 2 Piano connected
- 3 Left hand disabled



MEMORIZATION

In your last memorization exercise, you learned the first 10 notes of the left hand of Ode to Joy by memory. In this exercise, your objective is to play all the notes of the left hand of the song without looking at the screen. Do this exercise for about ten minutes (you can use the app if you get lost at certain moments).

Week 4



Playing with both hands

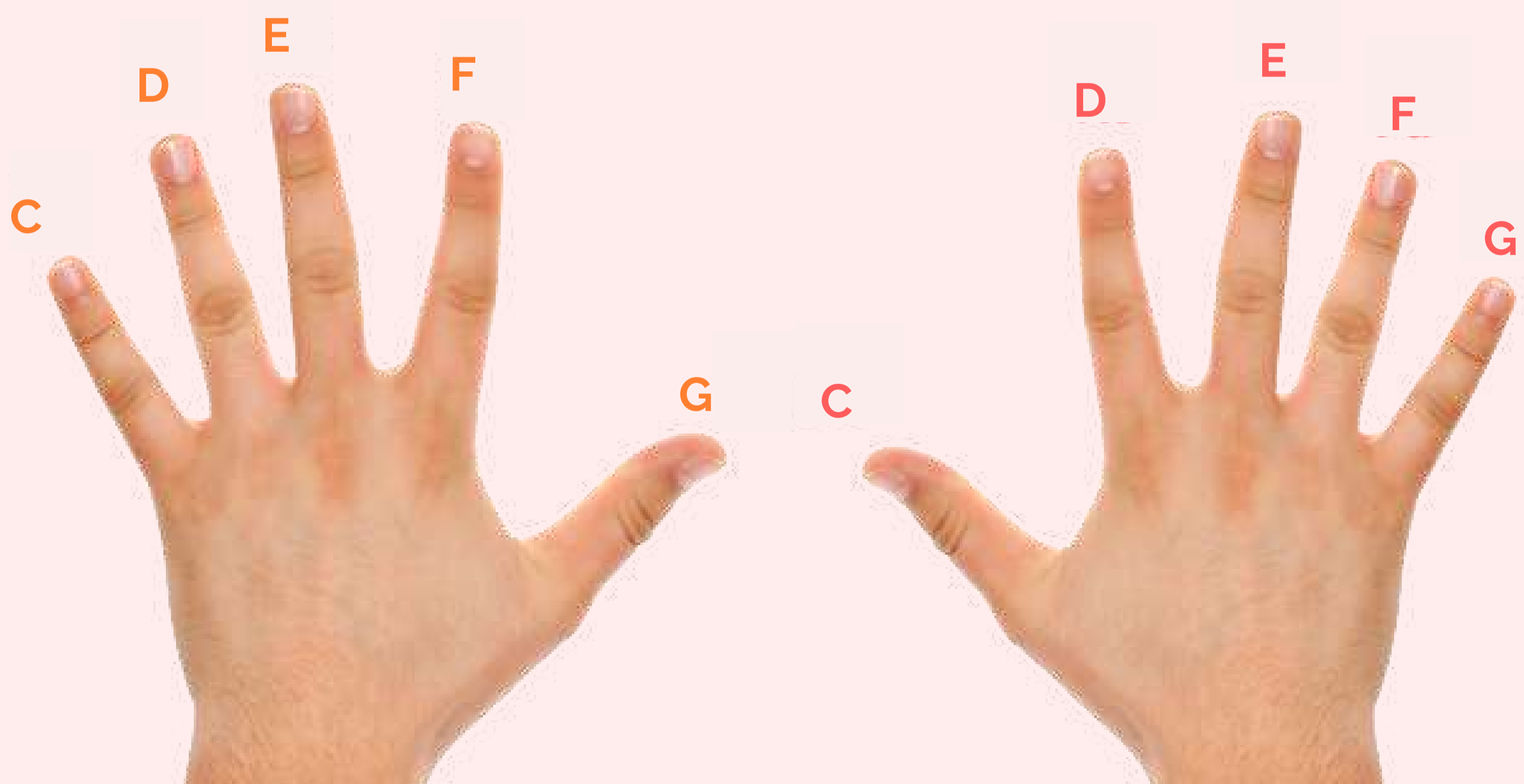
Session 7: Playing five notes in a row - two hands

We start this new week with a session that you should enjoy: playing with both hands at the same time! This is a work that requires a lot of coordination and concentration. Hence the importance of taking your time to work on this part.



EXERCISES

Play C, D, E, F and G in a row on your keyboard with both hands at the same time, applying exactly what we saw for each hand in the previous sessions.





Once you have done this exercise, go back down using the same fingers for the same keys.



Repeat this 5-note rise + 5-note fall for about 15 minutes with both hands simultaneously. Your sequences must become fluid.

This exercise is very interesting because it allows you to work both your fingering and your coordination with your two hands.

To help you practice this exercise, you can download our MIDI file below and import it into the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play it with an interactive lesson.

[DOWNLOAD THE EXERCISE IN MIDI](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



Ludwig Van Beethoven

Ode to Joy

Informations

Genre : classical music

Difficulty: easy

Status : free

Configuration

USB connection of the piano

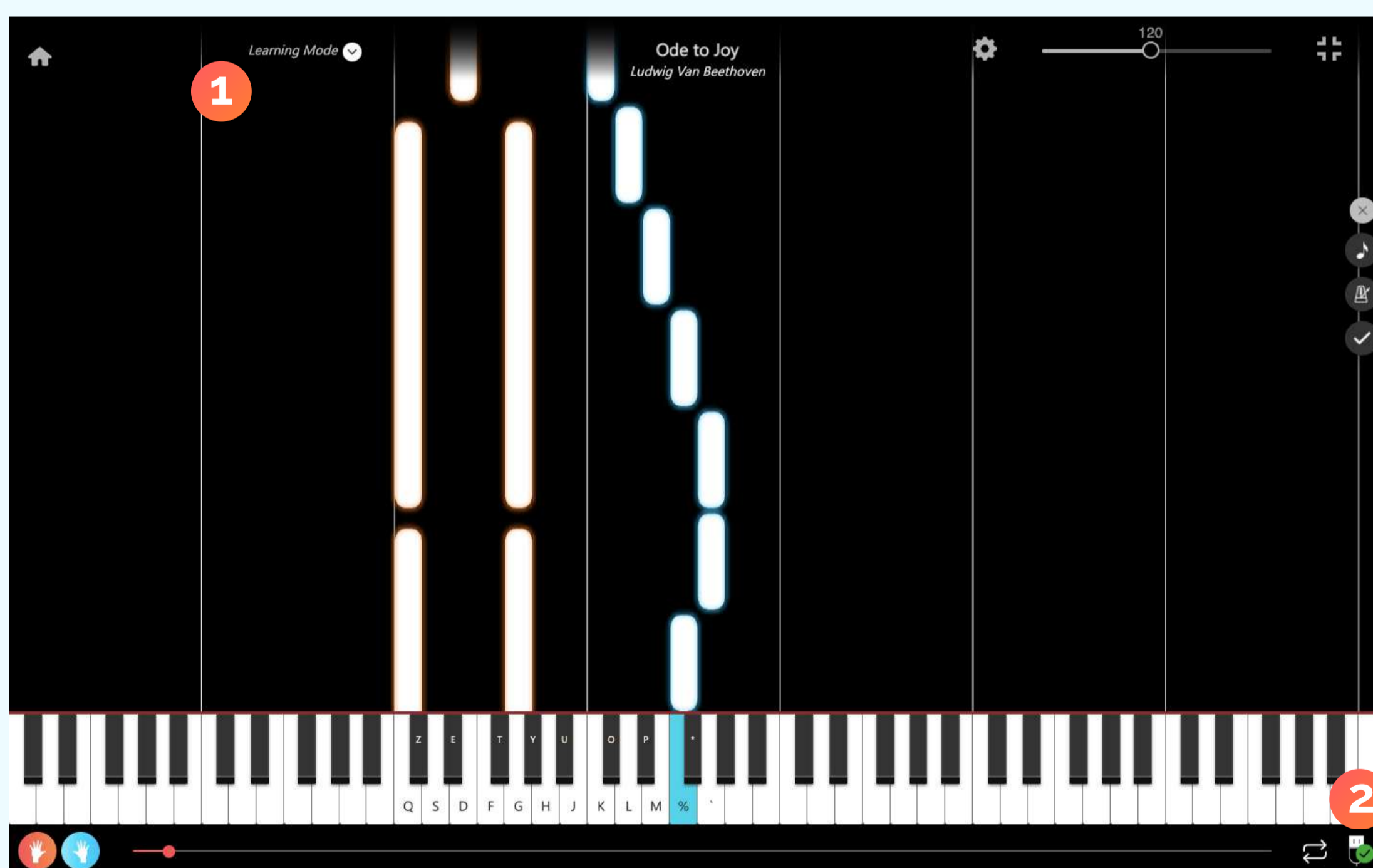
Learning mode



Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. [Sign up for free](#) on La Touche Musicale and go to the song Ode to Joy by Beethoven (you will not be able to access the song without creating an account). Use the search bar at the top right to find it.

[Go to Ode to Joy.](#)

Once you see the tutorial of the song, connect your piano to the USB and activate the learning mode. Practice the first notes of Ode to Joy with both hands for 20-25 minutes using the learning mode.



1 Learning mode activated

2 Piano connected

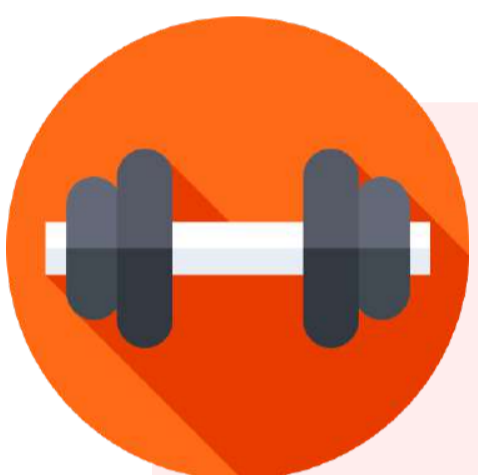


MEMORIZATION

Once you've gotten your bearings by playing the first few notes of Ode to Joy with both hands, we're going to do a memorization exercise. Your goal is to try to play the first 10 notes of the song with both hands at the same time from memory, without looking at the screen and the app. Do the exercise for about 10 minutes.

Session 8: Playing eight notes in a row - two hands

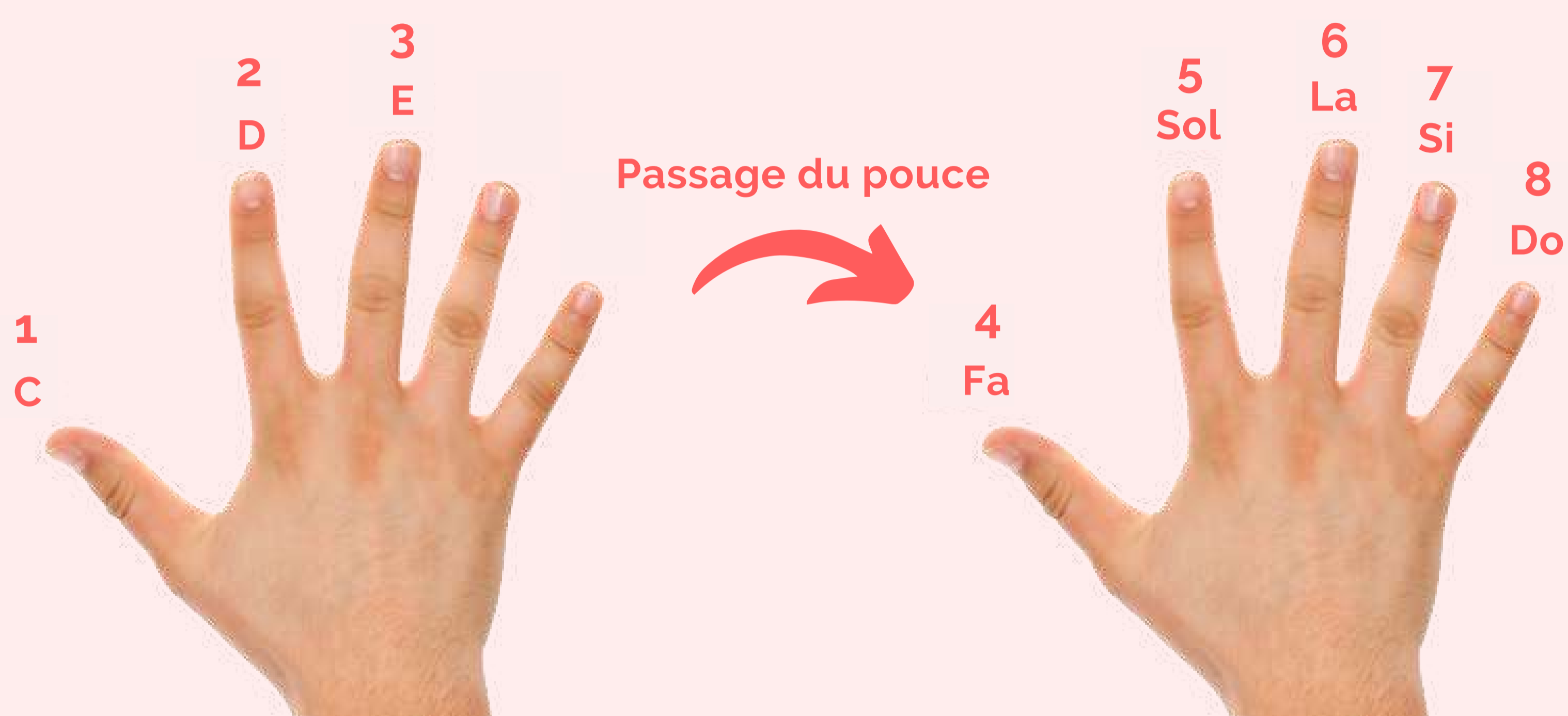
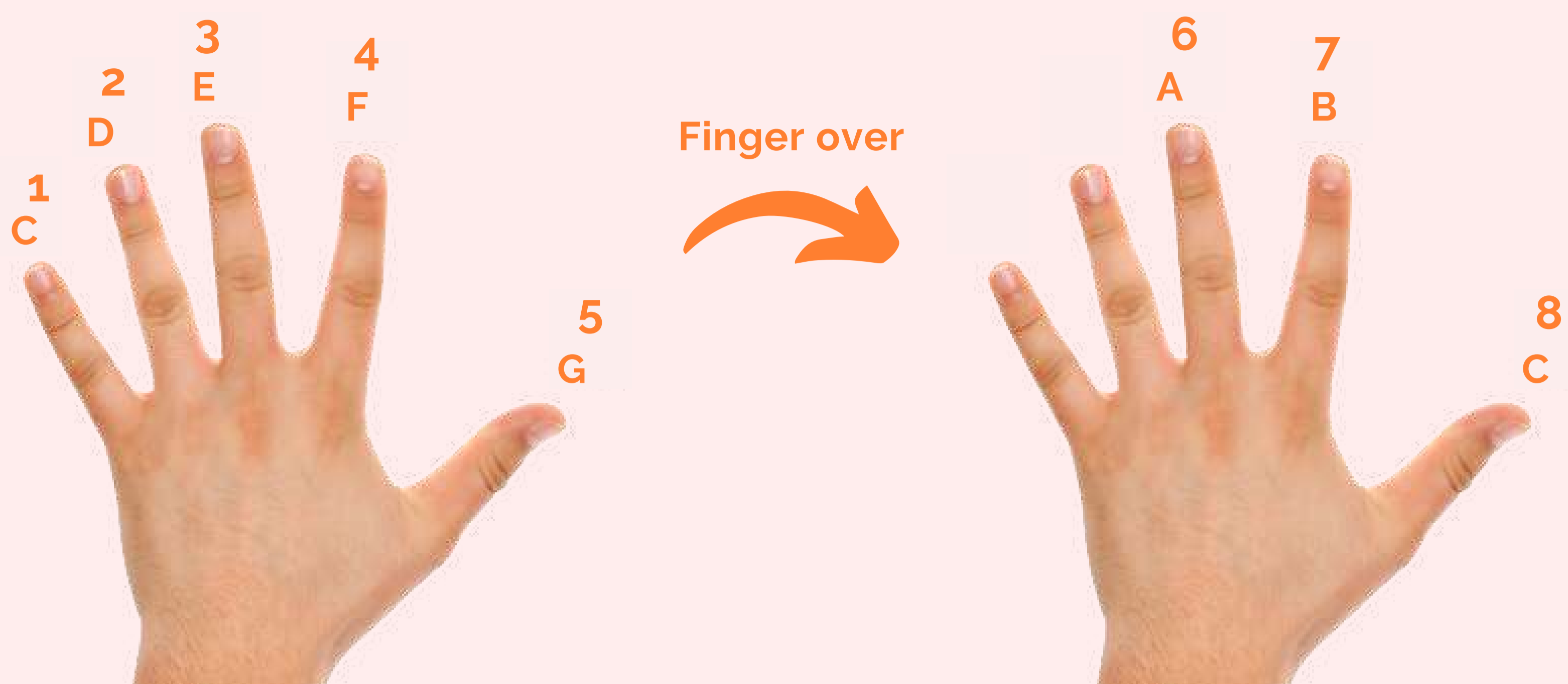
In the last session, we saw how to play 5 keys in a row with both hands. The idea now is to play 8 notes in a row. Don't forget that there is still the thumb and middle finger passage for this part, but this time with both hands at the same time!



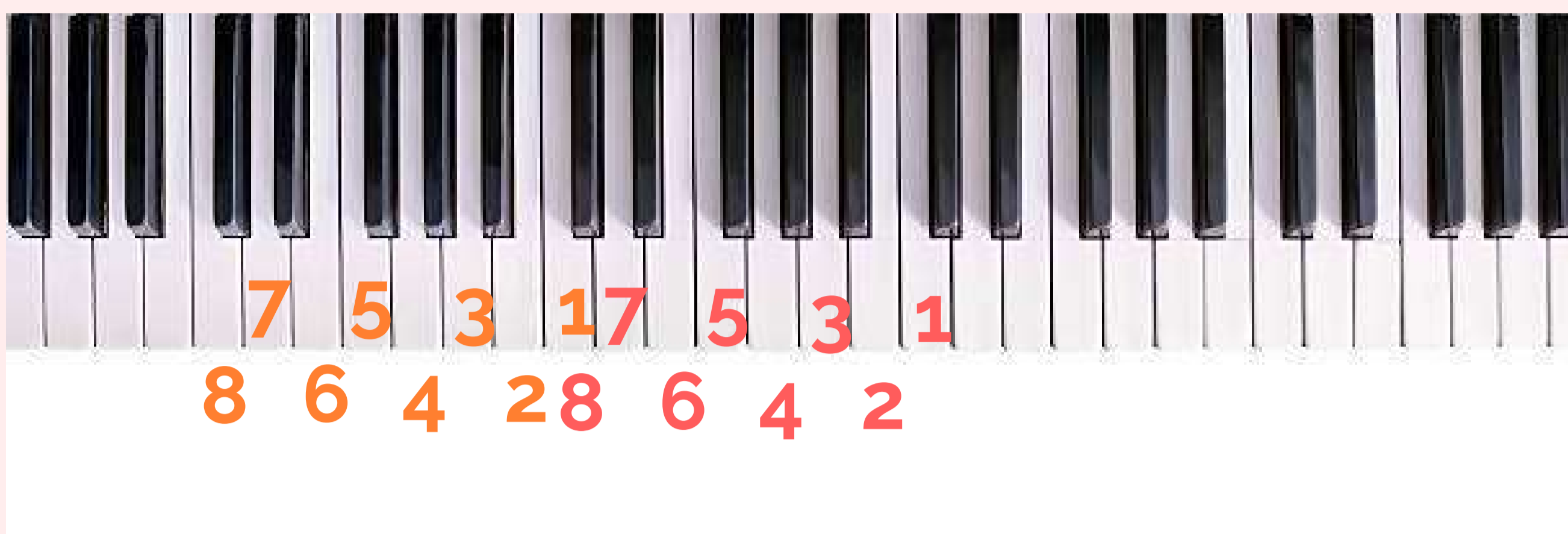
EXERCISES

Play C, D, E, F, G, A, B and C in a row on your keyboard with both hands at the same time, using respectively, for the left hand: the little finger for C, the ring finger for D, the middle finger for E, the index finger for F, the thumb for G, the middle finger for A, the index finger for E and the thumb for C / for the right hand: thumb for C, index finger for D, middle finger for E, thumb for F, index finger for G, middle finger for A, ring finger for E and little finger for C.

To do this successfully, you will need to do the finger over for the right hand and the thumb under for the left hand (to see the finger passages in detail, please refer to the previous sessions).



Once you have done this exercise, go back down using the same fingers for the same keys. You will have to do the thumb stroke for the left hand (see session 6) and the middle finger stroke for the right hand (see session 4).



Repeat this 8 note rise + 8 note fall for about 15 minutes with both hands at the same time. Take your time and go slowly at first. Gradually pick up the pace until your playing becomes fluid.

Remember that the purpose of this session is to work on your coordination with both hands. It takes time to get your brain used to making such precise movements with both hands. To achieve this, there is no secret: you have to repeat the exercise many times. So don't hesitate to do this session several times.

To help you practice this exercise, you can download our MIDI file below and import it into the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play it with an interactive lesson.

[DOWNLOAD THE EXERCISE IN MIDI](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)

Exceptionally, we have reserved a bonus exercise for this session that will make you work on the coordination with your two hands. It consists in linking different sequences of notes close together. If you feel comfortable with the previous exercise, we strongly encourage you to work on this one as well to make maximum progress on hand coordination, as it is one of the most difficult exercises when you start playing the piano.

[DOWNLOAD THE BONUS EXERCISE](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



Ludwig Van Beethoven

Ode to Joy

Informations

Genre : classical music

Difficulty: easy

Status : free

Setup

USB connection of the piano

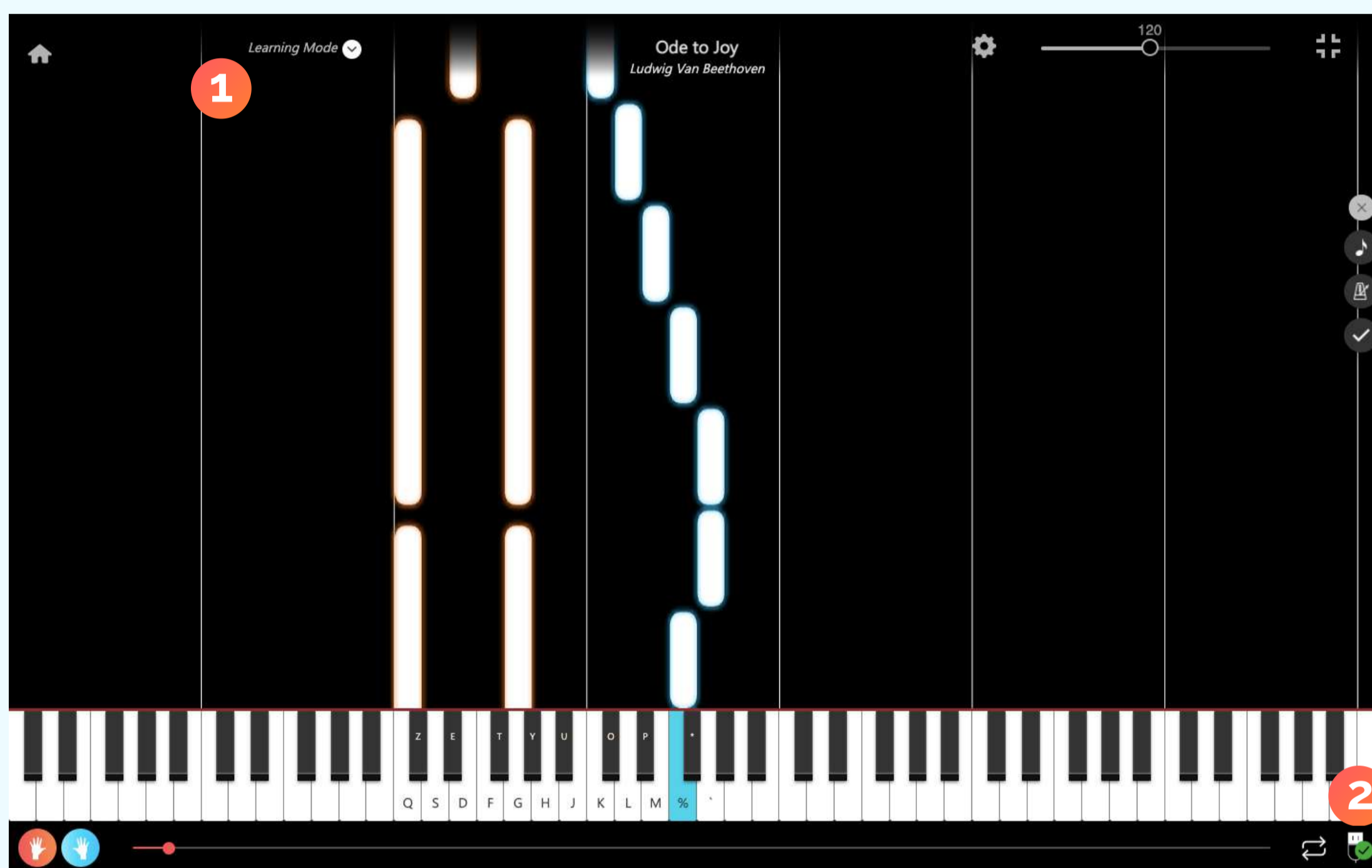
Learning mode

Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. [Sign up for free](#) on La Touche Musicale app and go to the song Ode to Joy by Beethoven (you will not be able to access the song without creating an account). Type "Ode to Joy" in the search bar at the top right to find it.

[Go to Ode to Joy](#)



Once you are in front of the song tutorial, connect your piano via USB and activate the learning mode. Practice for 15-20 minutes all the notes of Ode to Joy with both hands at the same time using the learning mode.



1 Learning mode activated

2 Piano connected



MEMORIZATION

In your last memorization exercise, you learned the first 10 notes of Ode to Joy by memory with both hands. In this exercise, your objective is to play all the notes of the song with both hands without looking at the screen. Do this exercise for about ten minutes (you can use the app if you are ever lost at certain moments).

Week 5



The scales

Session 9: Major scales

Let's start a new week with a session devoted to major scales. Scales are one of the most popular piano exercises to work on your dexterity, speed and sequencing.

It is simply an orderly and predefined succession of the different degrees of a musical key. In simpler terms, a scale allows you to work on the sequence of notes in a fluid way to improve your piano technique.

Let's start by taking the most famous scale as an example: C major.

The C major scale consists of a sequence of 8 notes in a row that starts at the note C an octave higher and ends with the same note in the next octave. Once you get to the second C, you have to go back down the piano playing the same notes to get to the initial C (the one in the lower octave). And you think... "But I've already learned how to do that in previous classes, right?" Yes, exactly! In the sessions on working with each hand, we had you work the C major scale without you knowing it.

But the goal here is to have you work the major scales, not just the C scale.



Whatever the scale, the sequence of notes is the same and the fingers are used in the same order.

For the right hand, a major scale should be played as follows:

- Up the scale: thumb - index finger - middle finger - thumb - index finger - middle finger - ring finger - little finger.
- Descending scale: little finger - ring finger - middle finger - index finger - thumb - middle finger - index finger - thumb.

For the left hand, a major scale should be played as follows:

- Scale up: little finger - ring finger - middle finger - index finger - thumb - middle finger - index finger - thumb.
- Descending scale: thumb - index - middle finger - thumb - index - middle finger - ring finger - little finger.

Don't forget to do the finger crossing (thumb and middle finger) on the up and down (for more details on finger crossing, see previous sessions).

If you use your fingers in this order, you will get a succession of notes played in the most mechanically efficient way for your sequence.

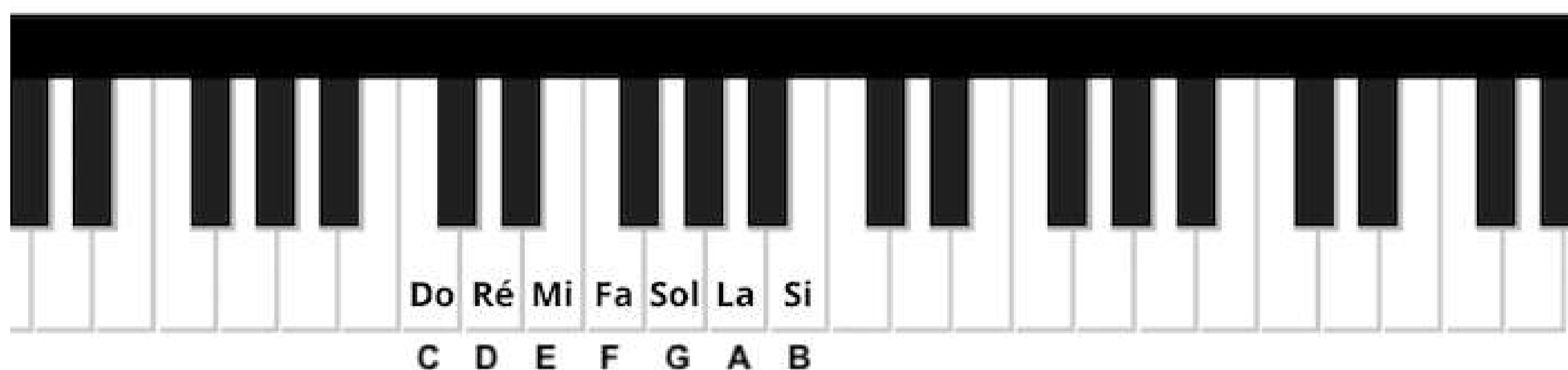
You will find that at first this will not be easy to do, nor will it be innate. But, as you work through the major scales in a loop, it will become mechanical for you.

Working on your scales will greatly improve your fingering and piano technique. We recommend that you play them assiduously in order to have the most fluid playing possible.

But before doing some exercises to improve yourself, we will discuss the concepts of tones and intervals. This will allow you to understand how scales are musically constructed. You will then be able to find all the scales you need and play them.

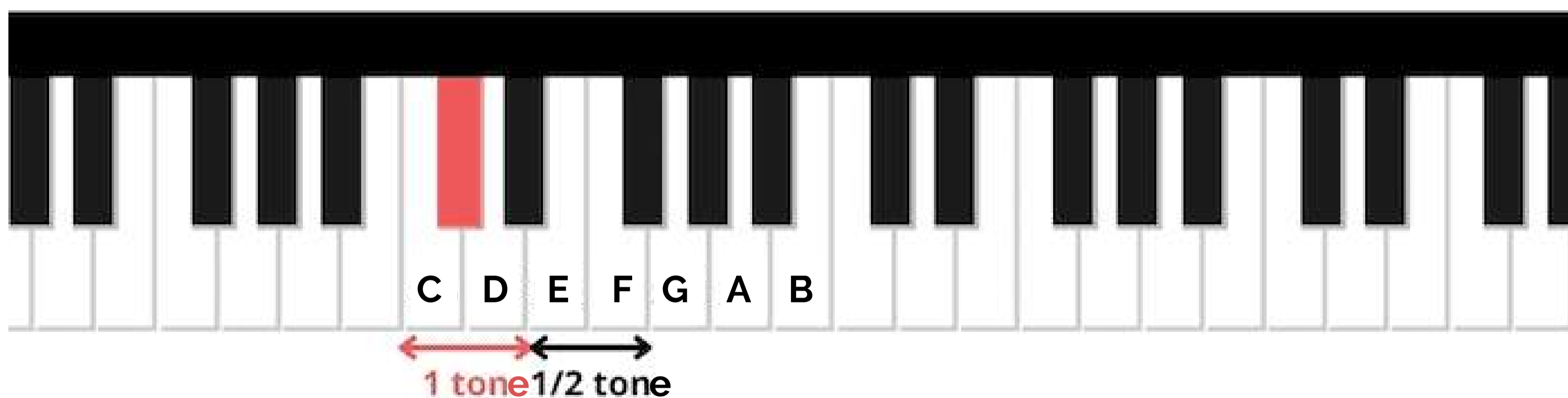
Know the concept of intervals

The interval is simply the distance between two notes. This distance is not always the same and depends on the distance between two notes. If a black key on the piano separates two white keys, the distance between the two white keys will be greater than if two white keys are placed directly next to each other, with no black key in between.

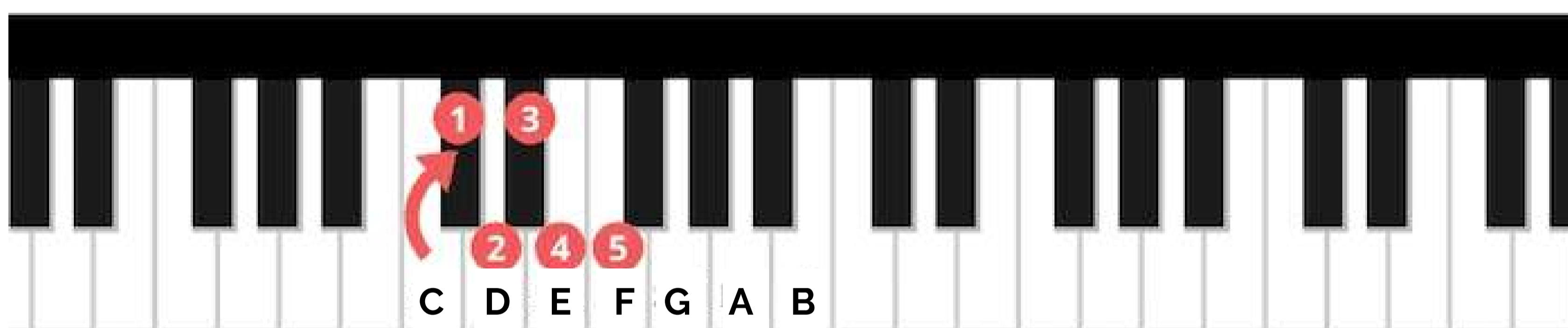


The interval between two musical notes is either called a "tone" or a "semitone", depending on whether a black note separates the two white notes. The method of calculating the interval is very simple: each key (white as well as black) is worth one semitone. When you want to know the interval between two keys, you simply count all the keys that separate them one by one, adding up the semitones.

Let's start with a simple interval between two glued keys. For example, the interval between C and D is one tone, since the quarter note separates the two notes. Conversely, the interval between E and F is only a semitone, since there is no intermediate note between them.



Simple enough, isn't it? Now we'll calculate the interval between C and F in the same scale, counting the number of notes between them, and always counting a semitone per note, including the black keys.

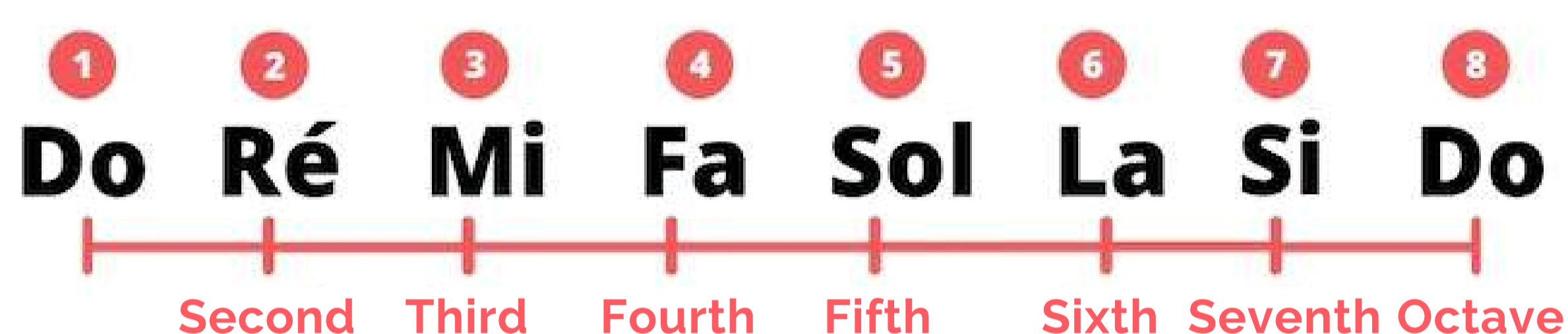


5 notes apart = 2 and a half tones apart

Between C and F of the same chromatic scale, the interval is two and a half tones, because 5 notes separate them.

You should also know that each interval has a name according to its distance. Let's take the C scale for example. When we start from the note C, we find the following intervals:

- C - D : 1 note apart = the second ;
- C - E : 2 notes apart = the third;
- C - F : 3 notes apart = the fourth;
- C - G : 4 notes apart = the fifth;
- C - A : 5 notes apart = the sixth;
- C - B : 6 notes apart = the seventh;
- C - C : 7 notes apart = the octave.

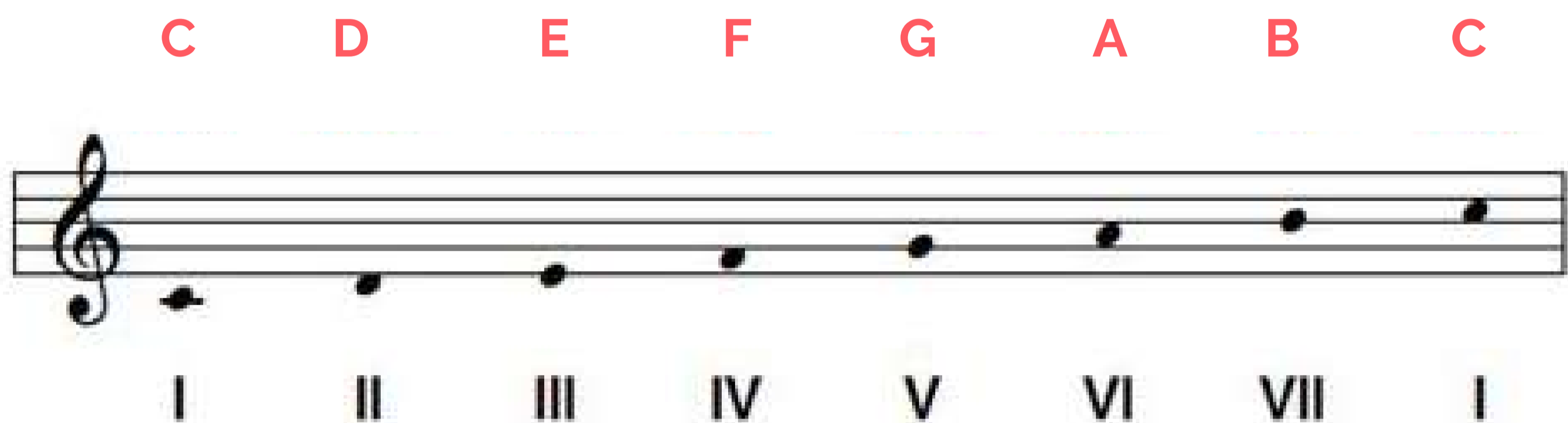


And this is valid for all ranges. An interval of a similar distance will always be called the same way. For example, an interval of two notes apart will always be called a third, no matter if you start from C, D, E, ...

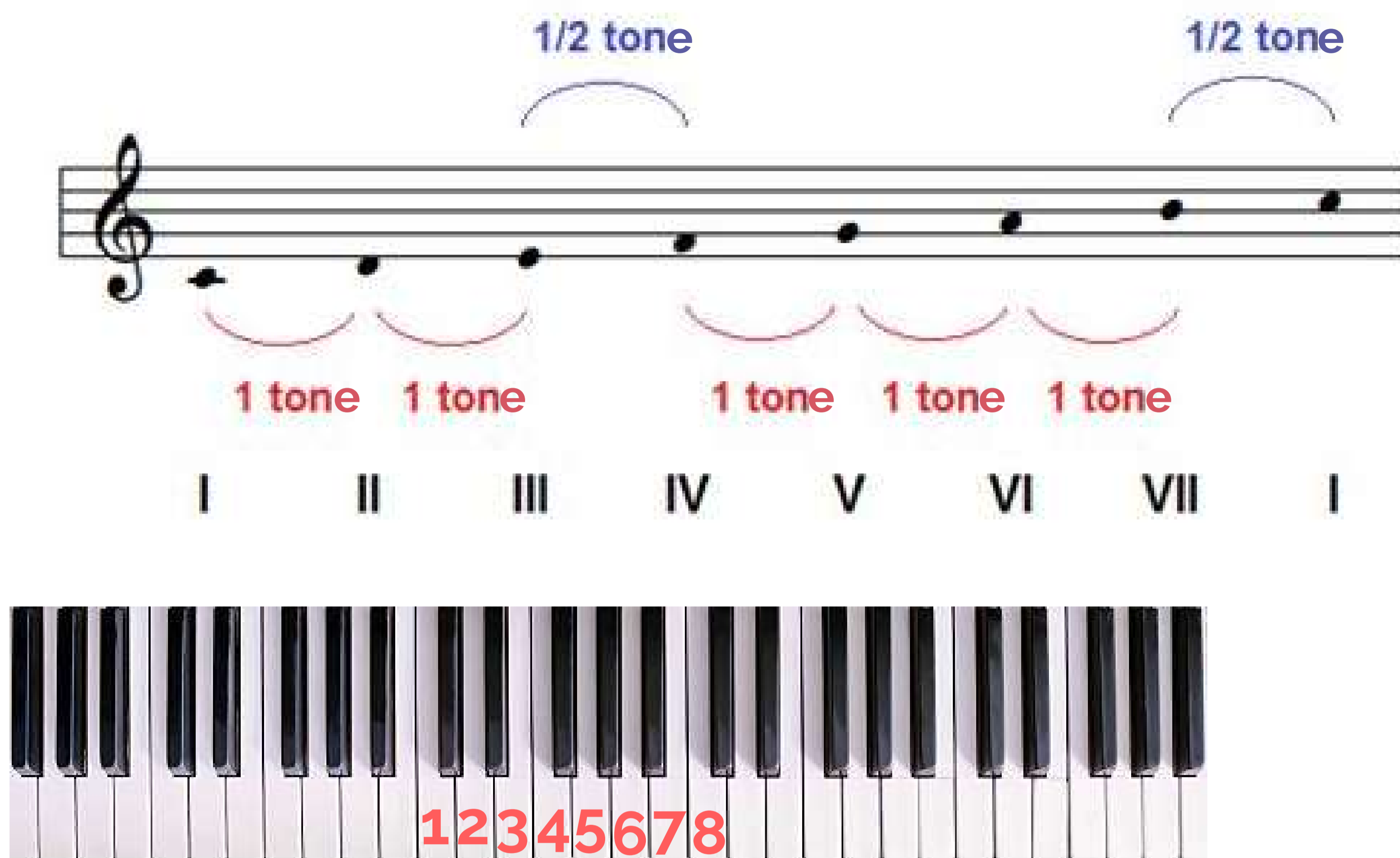
The structure of the major scale

Now that we know the notions of intervals and tones, we will use them to understand how a major scale is structured.

To illustrate this, we will start by taking the C major scale as an example. On a score, it looks like this:

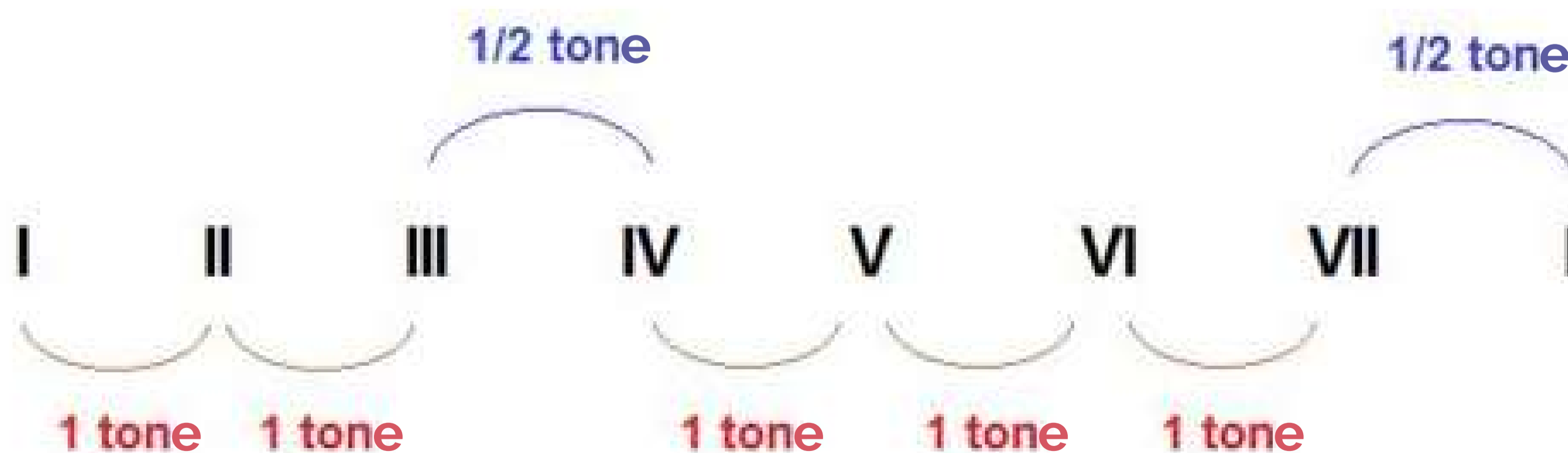


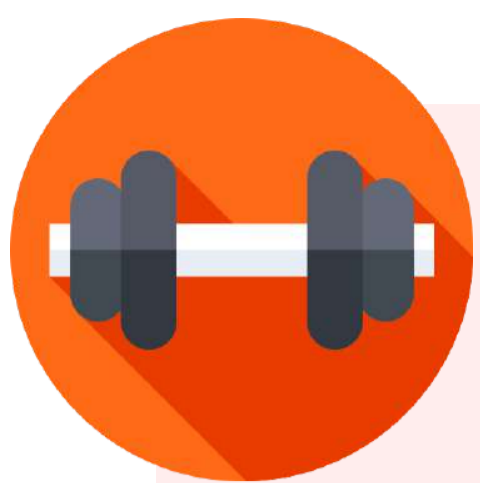
Let's now analyze this scale. To do this, we'll have to calculate its intervals, i.e. the distance between its notes. The C major scale contains only "natural" notes, i.e. notes that do not include sharps or flats. From there, it is very easy to calculate the intervals because the classical theory tells us that each note is separated by one tone, except for the notes E/Fa and B/C which are separated by half a tone (this is a silly convention to learn by heart). After a quick analysis, here is what we get:



The C major scale serves as a reference for the construction of all other major scales. In other words, now that you know how to build it, you can build any other major scale. To do this, you will simply need to reproduce the structure of the diagram above. Make sure that there is a semitone between the notes in positions III/IV and VII/I, and a tone between the others, and you will have a major scale.

The general structure of all major scales is :

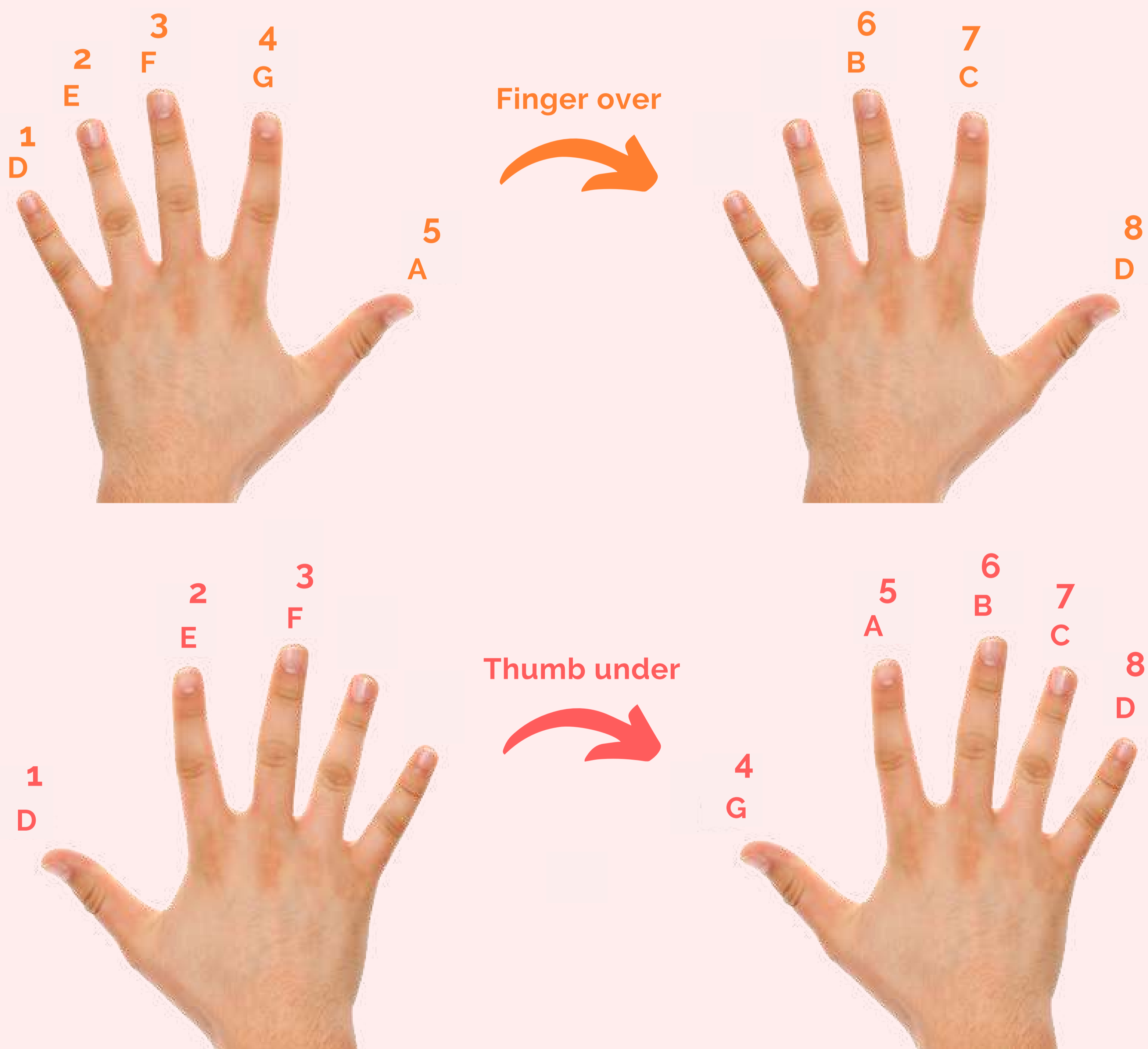




EXERCISES

Start by playing the C major scale you know (the one we saw in session 8) with both hands. Work on this scale for two or three minutes to warm up.

Now we'll do the D major scale. This is exactly the same exercise and mechanics. You just need to shift your scale one note to the right to start at D.





Once you have done this exercise, go back down using the same fingers for the same keys. You will have to do the thumb stroke for the left hand (see session 6) and the middle finger stroke for the right hand (see session 4).



Repeat this exercise on the D major scale for two or three minutes, then move to the next scale in E major :



Play these three scales (C major, D major, and E major) in succession, and feel free to play other major scales and think about their structure to practice even more.

To help you practice this exercise, you can download our MIDI file below and import it into the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play it with an interactive lesson.

[DOWNLOAD THE EXERCISE IN MIDI](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)

Do not hesitate to repeat this exercise every week for a few minutes to improve your fingering and your piano technique. Your playing will become more and more fluid as you practice the scales.



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



George Bruns

Everybody Wants to Be a Cat
(The aristocats)

Informations

Genre : jazz

Difficulty: medium

Status : paid

Setup

USB connection of the piano

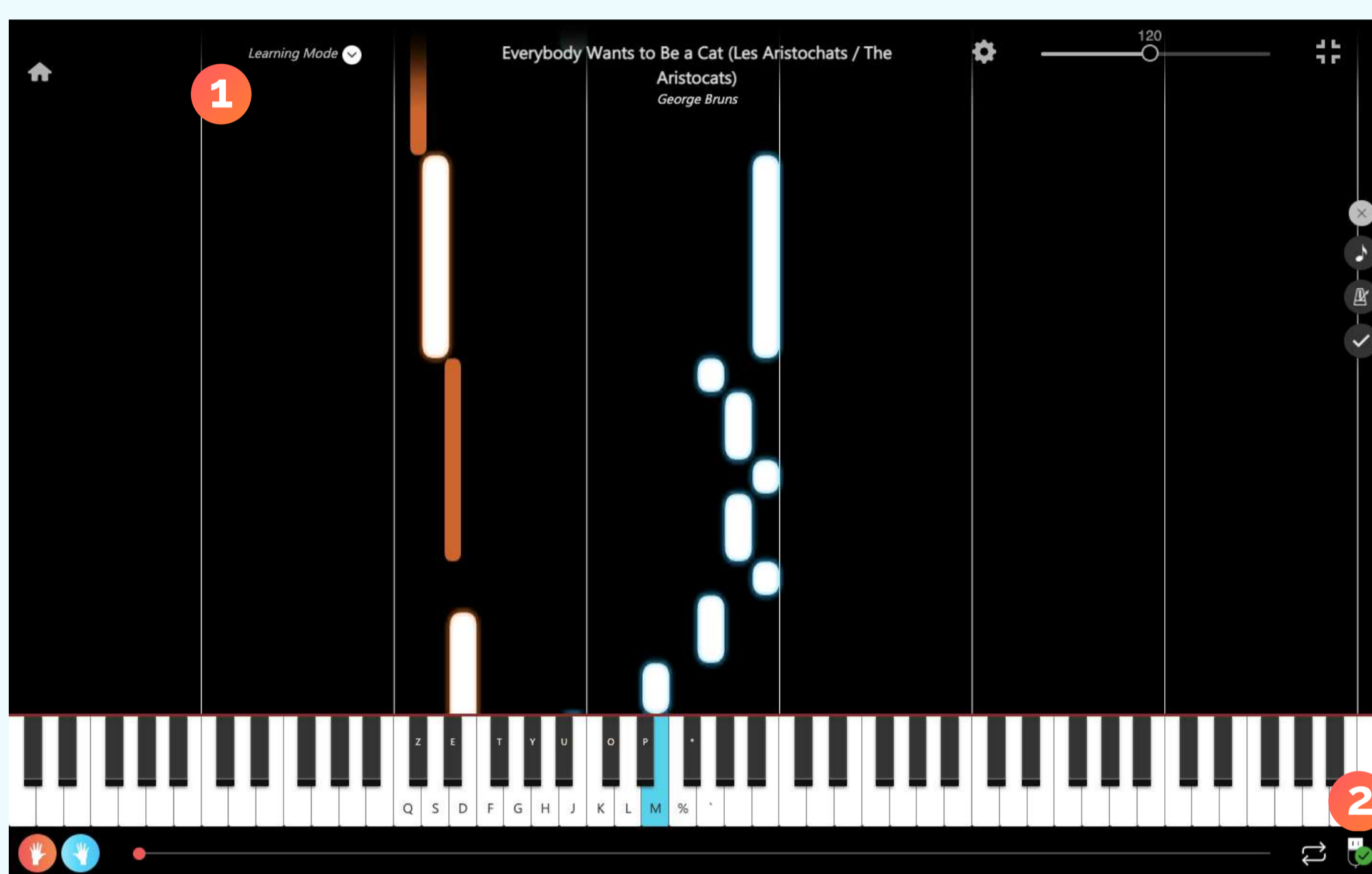
Learning mode

Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. Please note that this is a Premium song, so [you need to subscribe to the app](#) to be able to play it. The other alternative is to play the song London Bridge on the app, which is free but will make you work on the scales much less well. Use the search bar at the top right of the song catalog to find these two songs.

[Go to The aristocats](#)

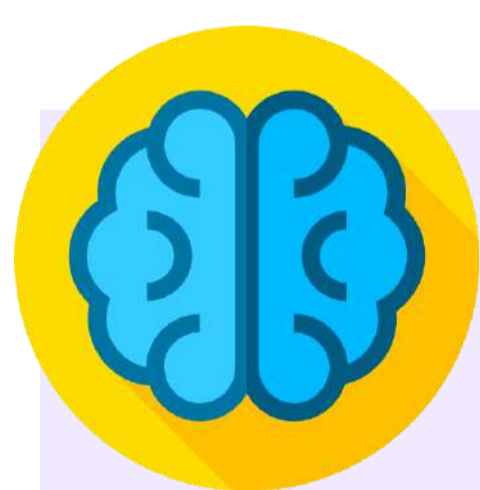


Once you see the tutorial of the song, connect your piano via USB and activate the learning mode. Practice the first notes of Everybody Wants to Be a Cat for 15-20 minutes with both hands at the same time using the learning mode.



1 Learning mode activated

2 Piano connected



MEMORIZATION

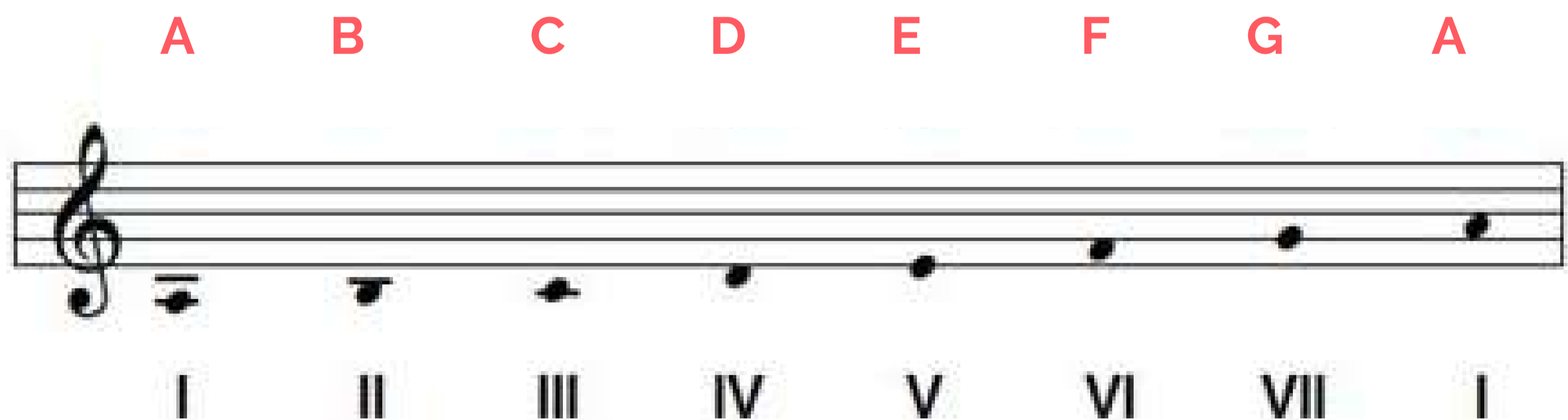
To close this session, your goal is to play the first 20 notes of the song with both hands from memory. Do this exercise for about 10 minutes (you can use the app if you are ever lost at certain moments).

Session 10: Minor scales

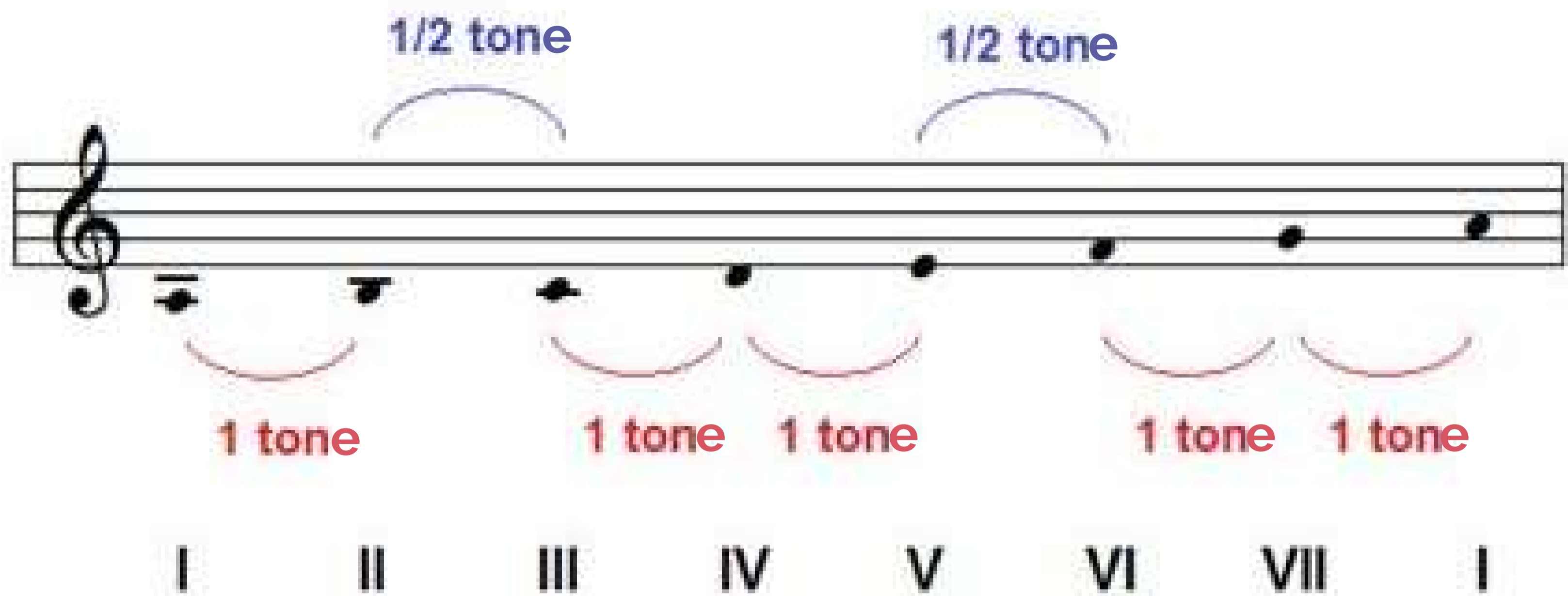
After working on the major scales, we will work on the minor scales in this session.

The principle of construction of the natural minor scale is exactly the same as that of the major scale. The only thing that will change is the reference scale. To build the major scales, we used the C major scale, and to build the minor scales, we will use the A minor scale.

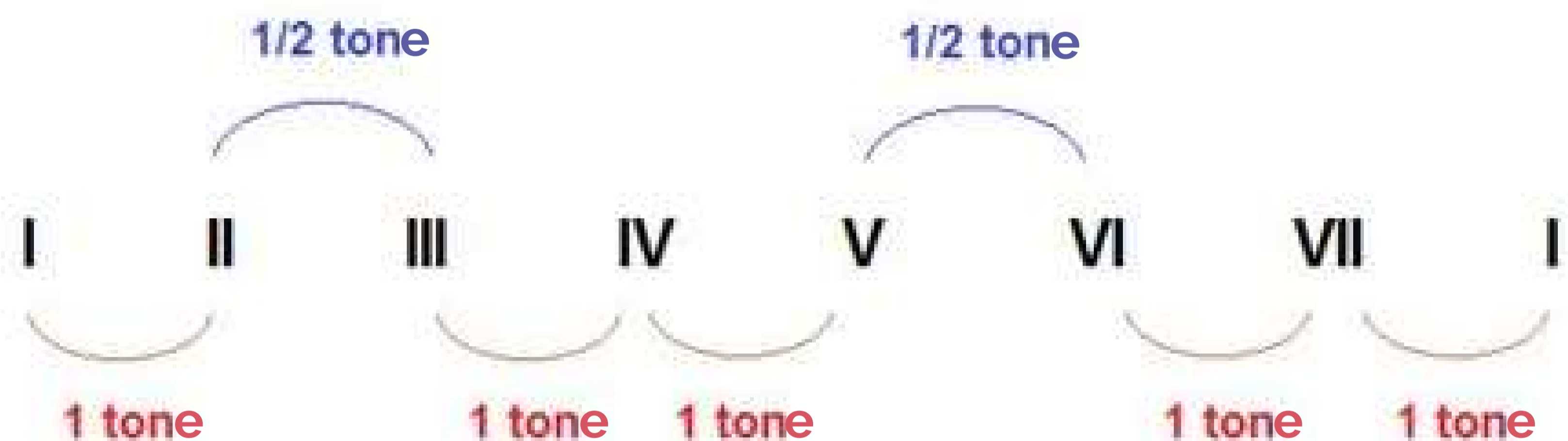
This is what this scale looks like:



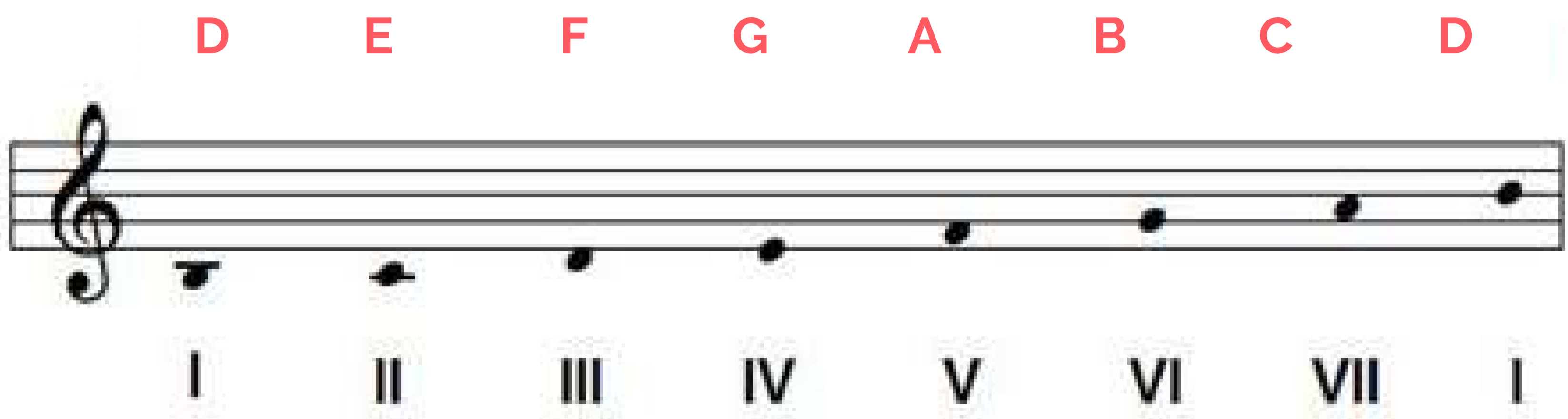
As before, we will analyze its intervals in order to identify the general structure of the minor scales. As usual, the semitones are located between the notes E/Fa and B/C and the other notes are separated by one tone.



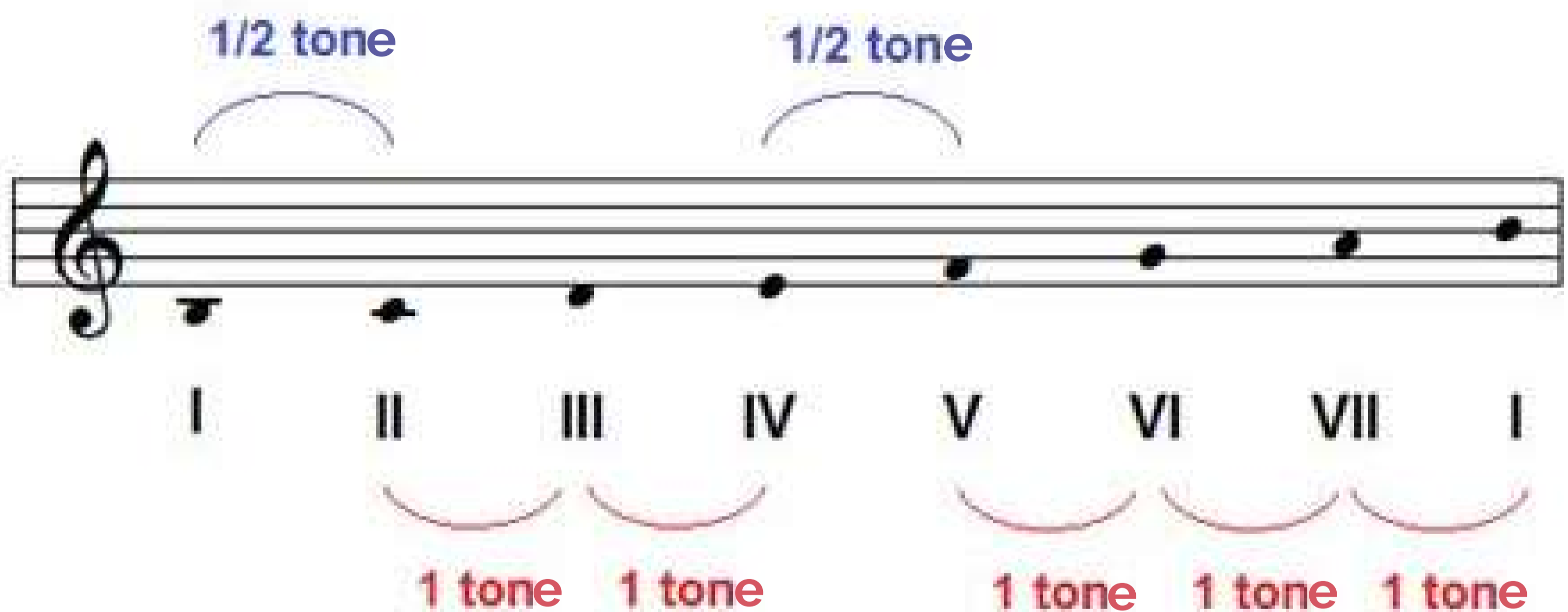
Ici, les demi-tons sont situés entre les degrés II/III et V/VI. On sait donc que la structure de toutes les gammes mineures naturelles va ressembler à ça :



Every time you want to build a minor scale, you will just have to respect this structure to do it. For example, let's try to build the B minor scale together. First, we start by writing the natural notes of the scale (without any alteration):

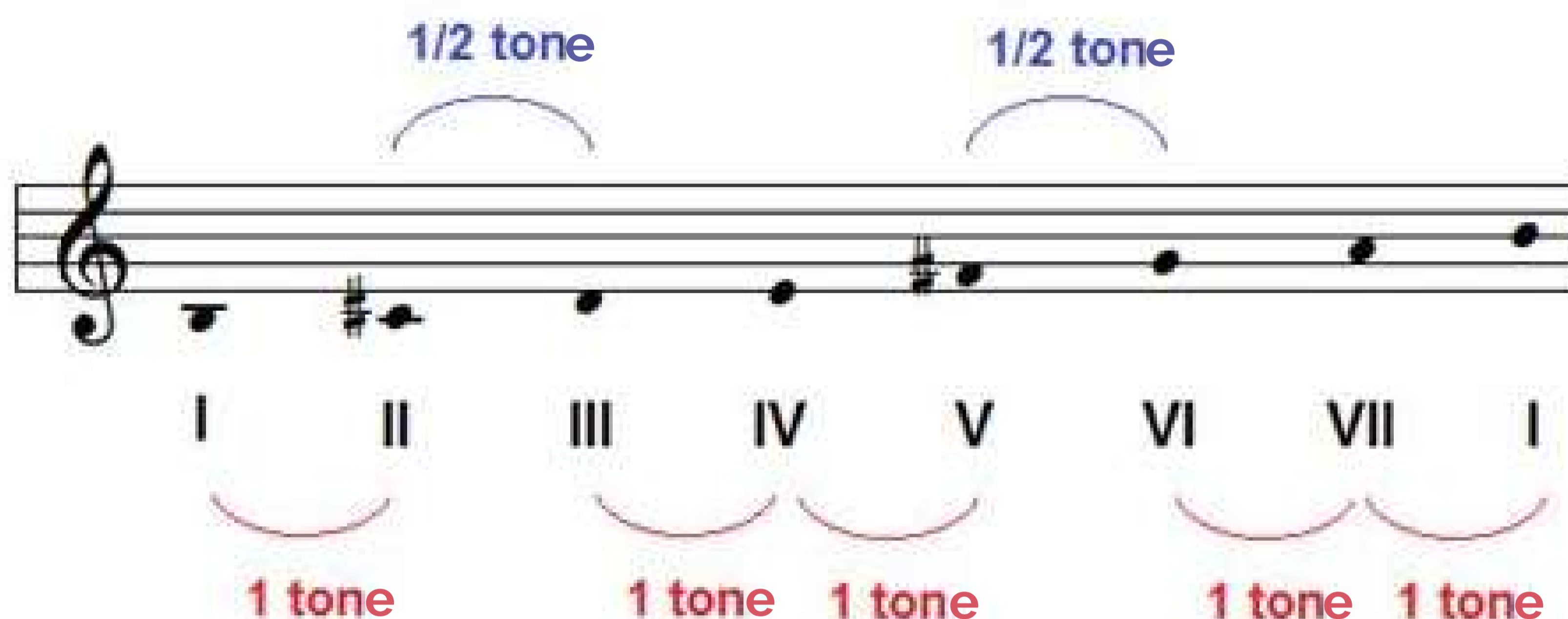


Then, we will calculate the intervals naturally present between these notes. Here is what it comes out:



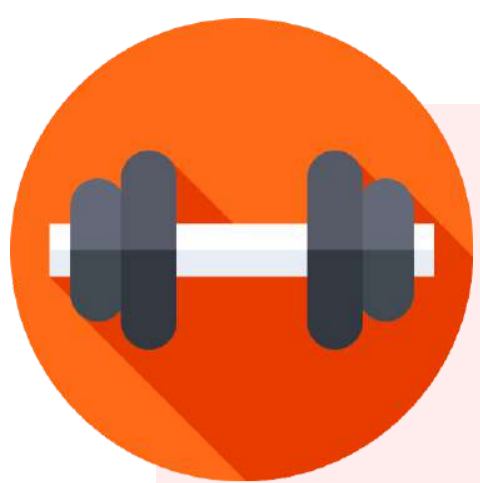
To respect the structure of the minor scale, the semitones must be between the degrees II/III and V/VI. But here they are between degrees I/II and IV/V. To rectify this, we will have to add a sharp to C. The sharp allows to raise the note. Thanks to this last one, the gap will decrease between C and D (there will be only half a tone) and at the same time, it will increase between B and C (we will pass from half a tone to one tone).

In the same vein, we will add a sharp to the F to obtain a half tone difference between the degrees V/VI and one tone between the degrees IV/V. Thanks to all these modifications, we finally obtain the structure of the minor scale and thus, by extension, our B minor scale.



By repeating this process from other notes, you will be able to build any natural minor scale you want.

Before starting the exercises, remember that the order of use of the fingers on the notes of the scale is exactly the same as for the major scales (see the exercise of the previous session).



EXERCISES

1) Do the F minor scale and its descent with both hands for 5 minutes:



We have the following structure: 1 tone - 1 semitone - 1 tone - 1 semitone - 1 tone - 1 tone.

2) Do the G minor scale and its descent with both hands for 5 minutes:



3) Do the C minor scale and its descent with both hands for 5 minutes:



Play these three scales one after the other, and don't hesitate to play other minor scales while thinking about their structure to practice even more.

Also, don't hesitate to repeat this minor scale work quite regularly (at least once a week), even for only a few minutes, because it takes time to become mechanical.

To help you practice this exercise, you can download our MIDI file below and import it into the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play it with an interactive lesson.

[DOWNLOAD THE EXERCISE IN MIDI](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



George Bruns

Everybody Wants to Be a Cat
(The aristocats)

Informations

Genre : jazz

Difficulty: medium

Status : Paid

Setup

USB connection of the piano

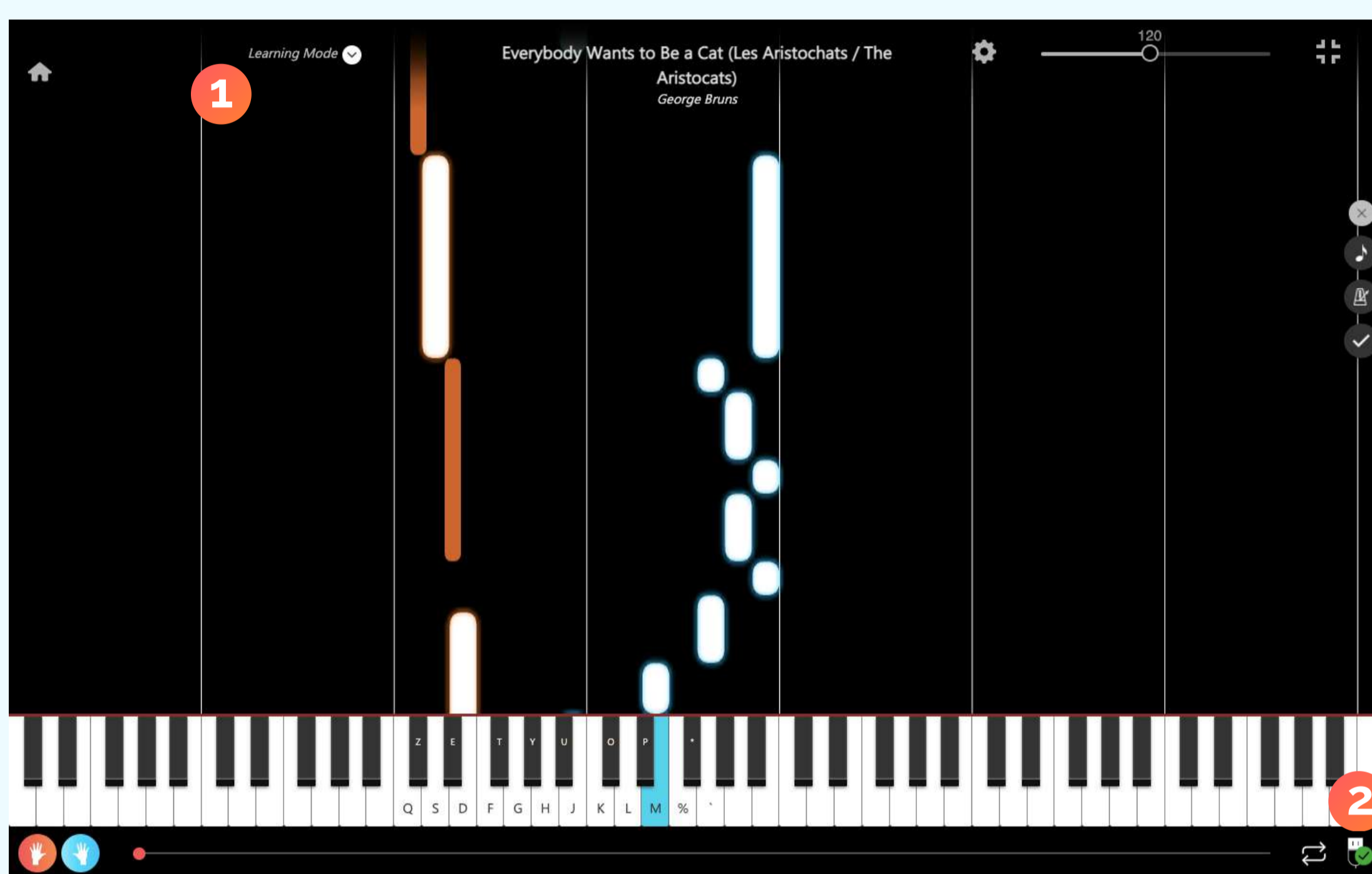
Learning mode

Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. Please note that this is a Premium song, so you need to [subscribe to the app](#) to be able to play it. The other alternative is to play the song London Bridge on the app, which is free but will make you work on the scales much less well. Use the search bar on the top right to find these two songs.

[Go to The aristocats](#)

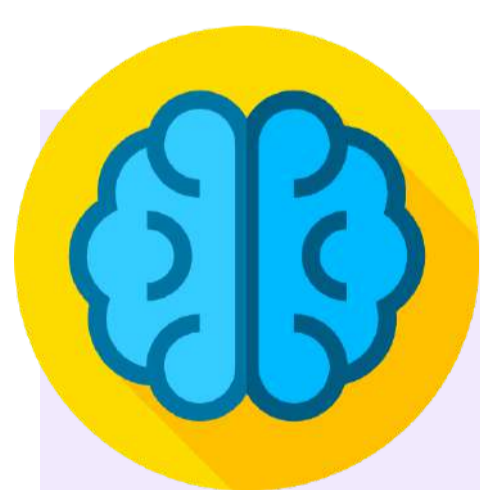


Once you see the tutorial of the song, connect your piano via USB and activate the learning mode. Practice the first notes of Everybody Wants to Be a Cat for 15-20 minutes with both hands at the same time using the learning mode.



1 Learning mode activated

2 Piano connected



MEMORIZATION

To close this session, your goal is to play the first 40 notes of the song with both hands from memory. Do this exercise for about 10 minutes (you can use the app if you are ever lost at certain moments).

Week 6



The chords

Session 11: Major chords

Let's start this new week with a new theme: the chords.

What is a chord?

A chord is a series of notes played simultaneously and producing a particular sound. Like music notation, scales or music theory, it is one of the basics of music and if you know them, you will be able to improvise, compose, better understand the songs and melodies you play and even learn them faster.

There are many popular piano chords and they frequently vary according to musical styles. You won't find the same chords in pop songs as in jazz songs, for example.

There are two main types of chords: major and minor. With these two types, you will already have a very good base to work with and practice.

Most piano chords are made up of 3 notes pressed at the same time. This chord is also called the triad, or three-note chord.



The major chords

A major piano chord produces a rather jovial sound to the ear when played. It consists of 3 notes played simultaneously. You must start by choosing your first note, which is then called the root note. Then you have to play a second note, called the third, which is two tones above the root. Finally, you must play a third note, called the right fifth, which is a tone and a half above the third. Here are the most commonly played and popular major piano chords for pianists:

The C major chord: C - E - G

The C# major chord : C# - E# - G#

The D major chord : D - F# - A

The E flat major chord: E flat - G - B flat

The E major chord : E - G# - B

The F major chord : F - A - C

The F# major chord : F# - A# - C#

The G major chord: G - B - D

The A flat major chord : A flat - C - E flat

The A major chord: A - C# - E

The B flat major chord : B flat - D - F

The B major chord : B - D# - F#

How to make a piano chord?

In music theory, a major chord always consists of 3 notes: the root, the third and the fifth. At first glance, these terms may seem complicated to understand when you first start learning the piano, but it is actually very easy to identify them.

To make a major chord, all you have to do is place your finger on a note of your choice (C, D, E, F, G, A or B), which will be the root note of your chord. Once you have placed your finger on your note, count 5 notes on the right, taking into account your root note and also counting the black keys. When you reach 5, you find the third of your chord. To find the last note of your chord (the right fifth), simply count 4 notes to the right from your third, still taking into account your third and counting the quarter notes. When you reach 4, you have the fifth of your chord. Now press

the 3 notes at the same time (root, third and fifth). Congratulations, you have made your first major chord!

All major chords are made up in the same way, regardless of the root. So, with this method, you can make any major chord you want and string them together according to your own musical sensibility!

But let's take an example to help you understand a little better.

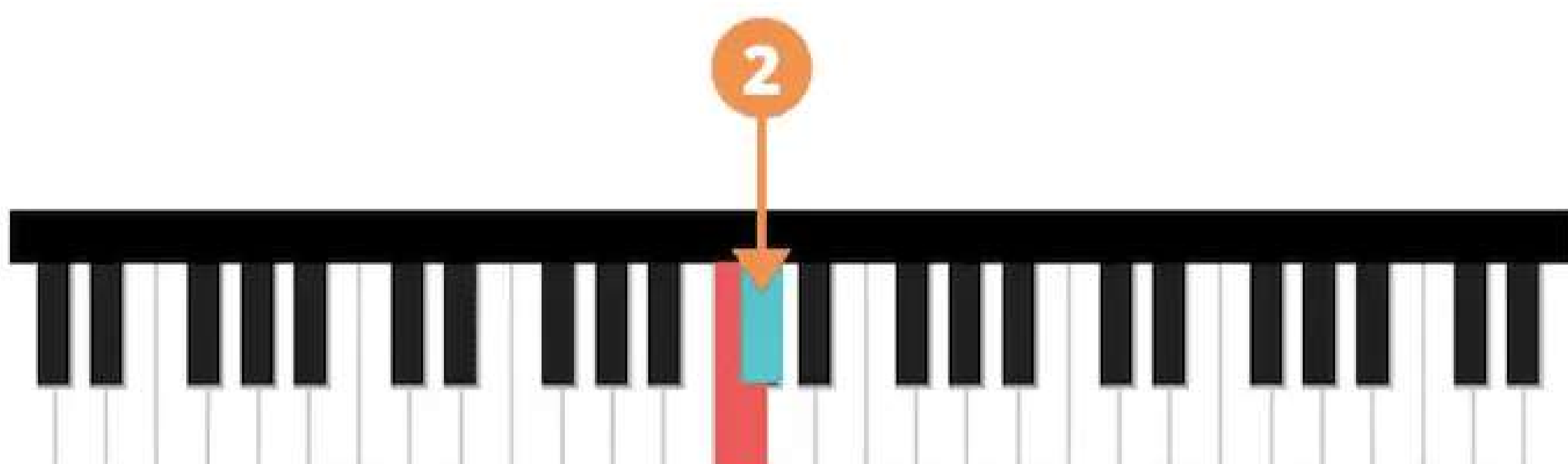
[Tutorial] Example of a basic chord: the C major chord

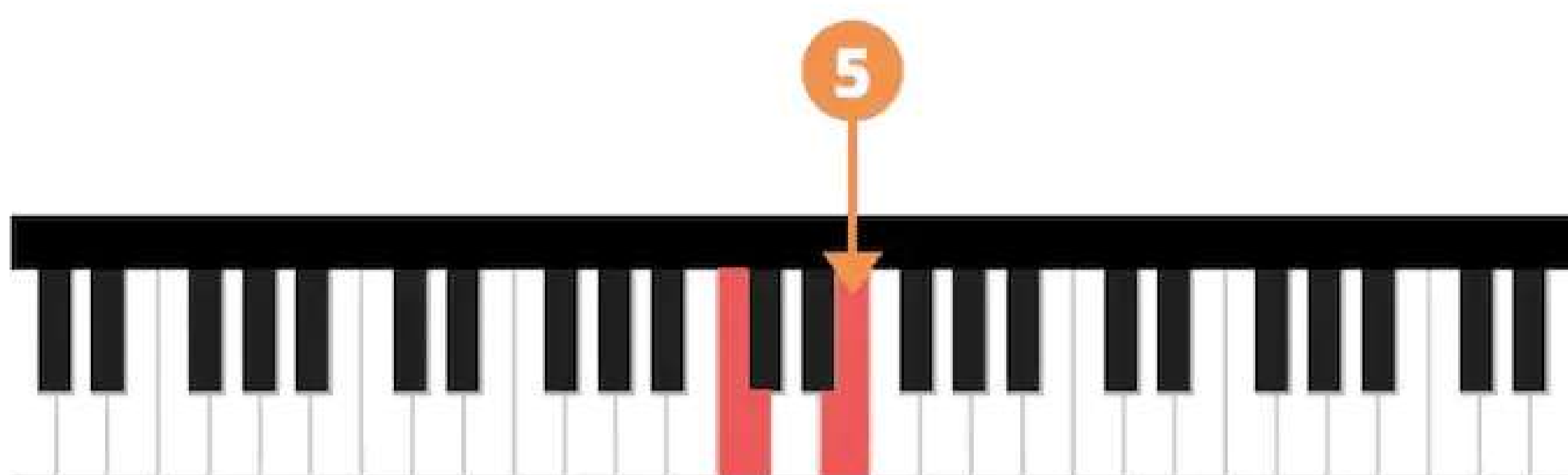
In this tutorial, we will learn how to play the C major chord together. Stand in front of your piano and follow the lesson step by step. After this tutorial, you will be able to play all major chords very easily!

1. To make a C major chord, place your finger on a C on your keyboard, regardless of the octave.

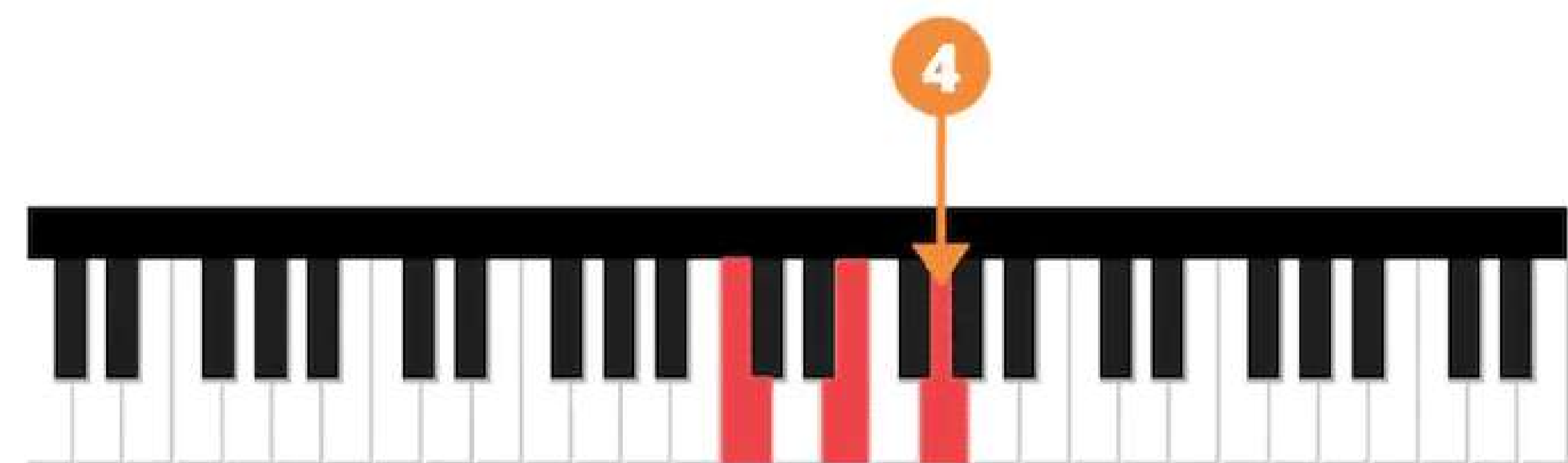
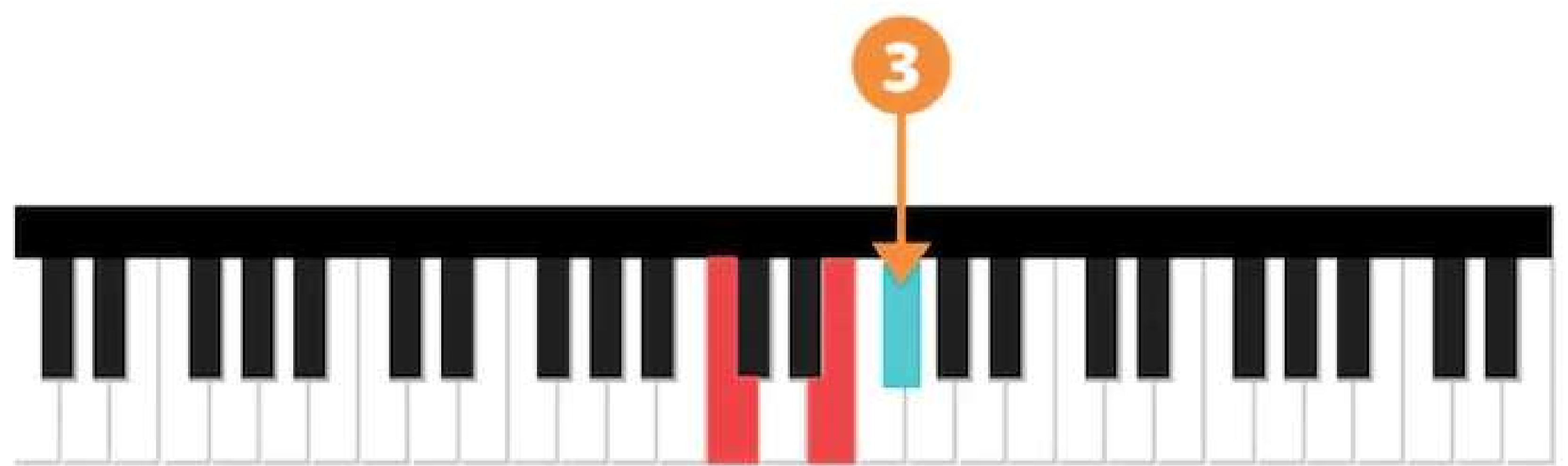
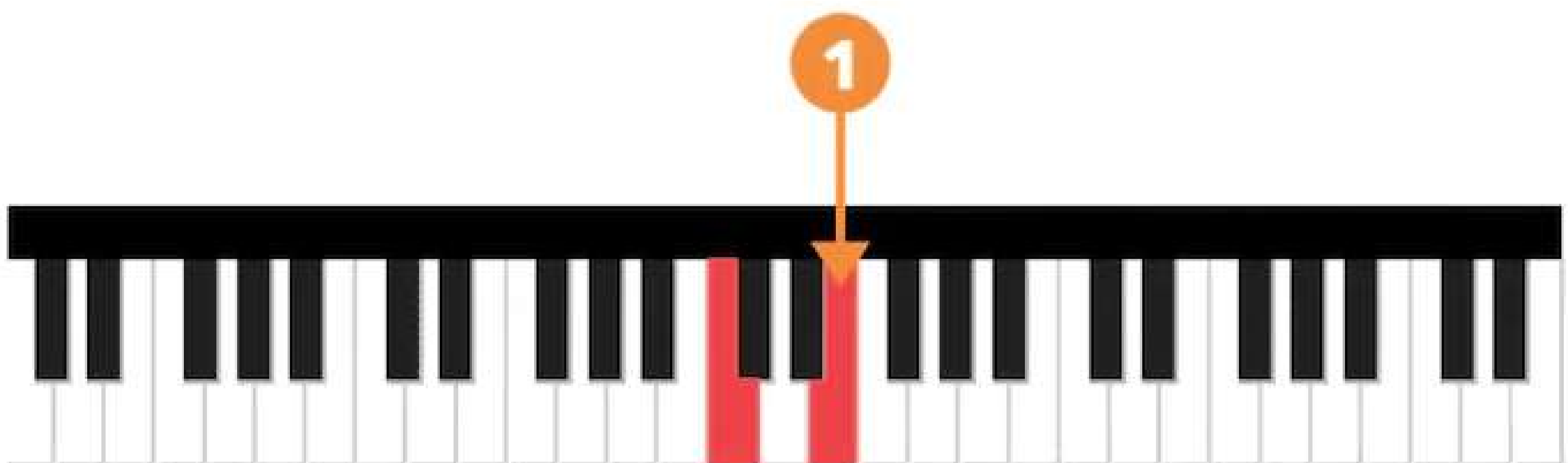


2. Once you have placed your finger on the note C, count 5 notes on the right, taking into account the note C you are on (which will be the root note of your C major chord) and counting the black keys.



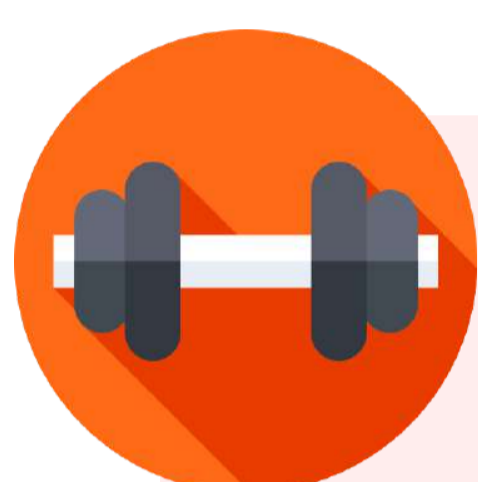


3. You are now on the third of your C major chord. Now we need to find the fifth that is the third note of the chord. To find it, you need to count 4 notes to the right from your third, always including the third and black keys in your count. We will show you how to do this with the following series of images:



4. You are now on the fifth of your C major chord. Now you just have to press all 3 notes at the same time (root, third and fifth) to hear your beautiful C major chord!

With this tutorial, you can now play all the chords of the major scale. But let's move on to some exercises.



EXERCISES

1) What chords are they?



Answer: C major chord



Answer: G major chord

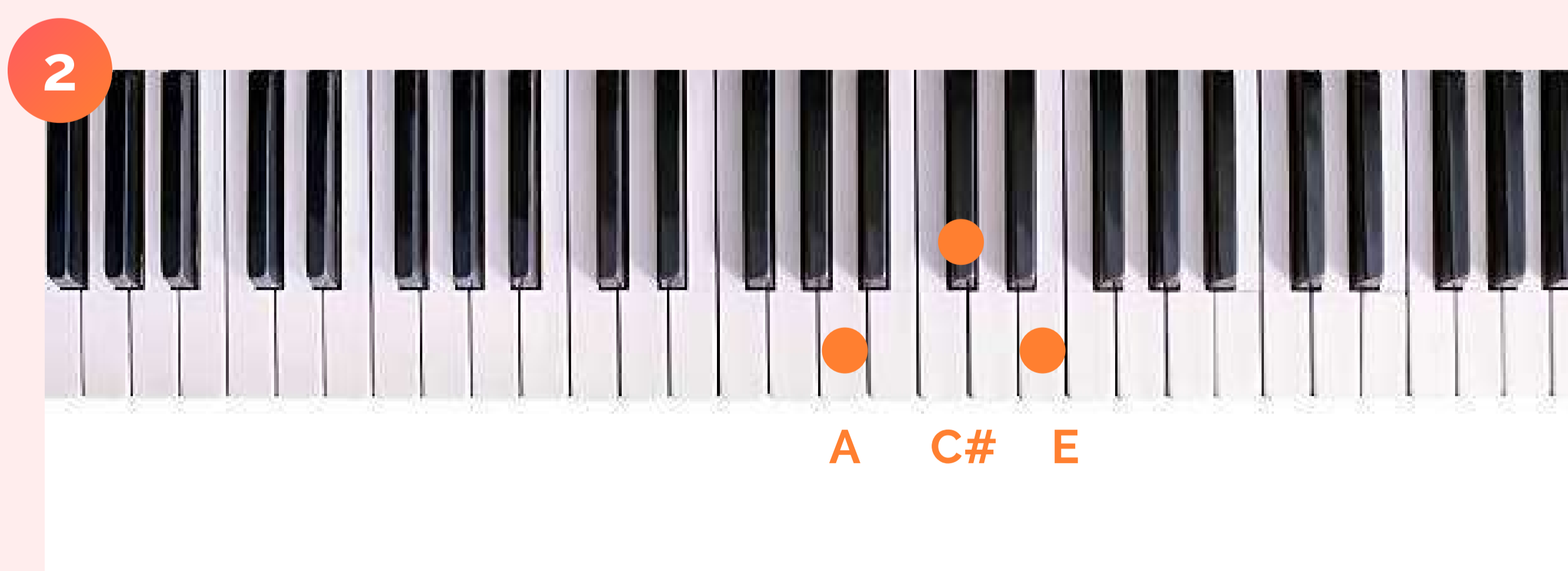
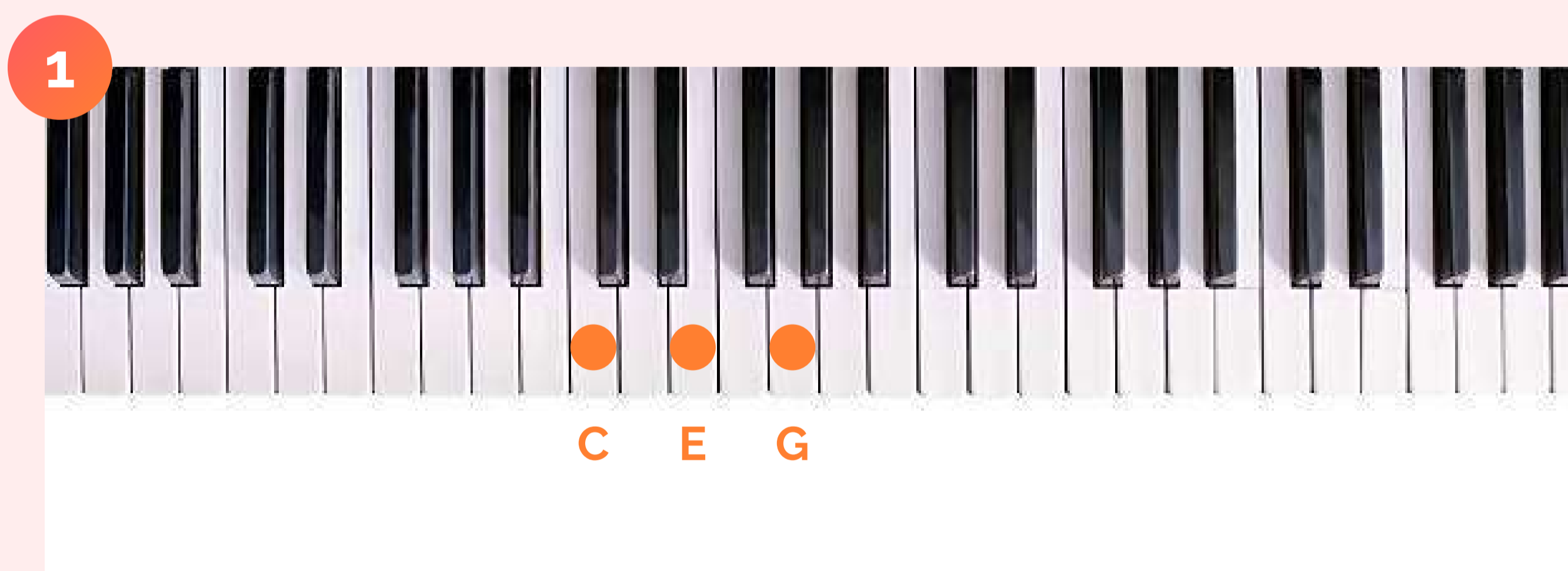


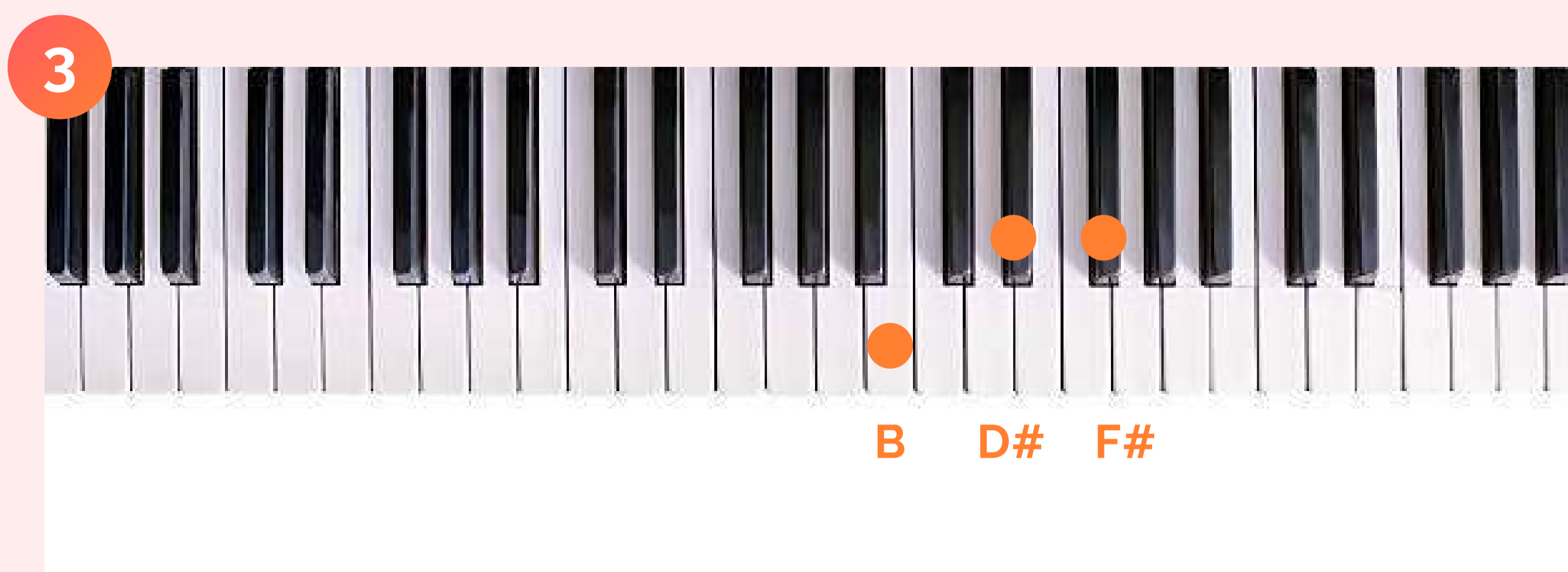
Answer: B major chord

2) String together 3 chords

It is by repeating the chords one after the other in every possible way that you will progress and even be able to improvise afterwards.

For this exercise, you will have to repeat the C major chord, the A major chord and the B major chord.





Play these 3 chords first in a row for 5 to 10 minutes. Once you feel comfortable, do them in any order for 5 to 10 minutes and, why not, insert other chords to start improvising!

To help you practice this exercise, you can download our MIDI file below and import it into the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play it with an interactive lesson.

[DOWNLOAD THE EXERCISE IN MIDI](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)

Feel free to repeat this exercise every week for a few minutes to improve your chord progressions.



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song. to play this song.



Adele

Hello

Informations

Genre : pop

Difficulty: easy

Status : Paid

Setup

USB connection of the piano

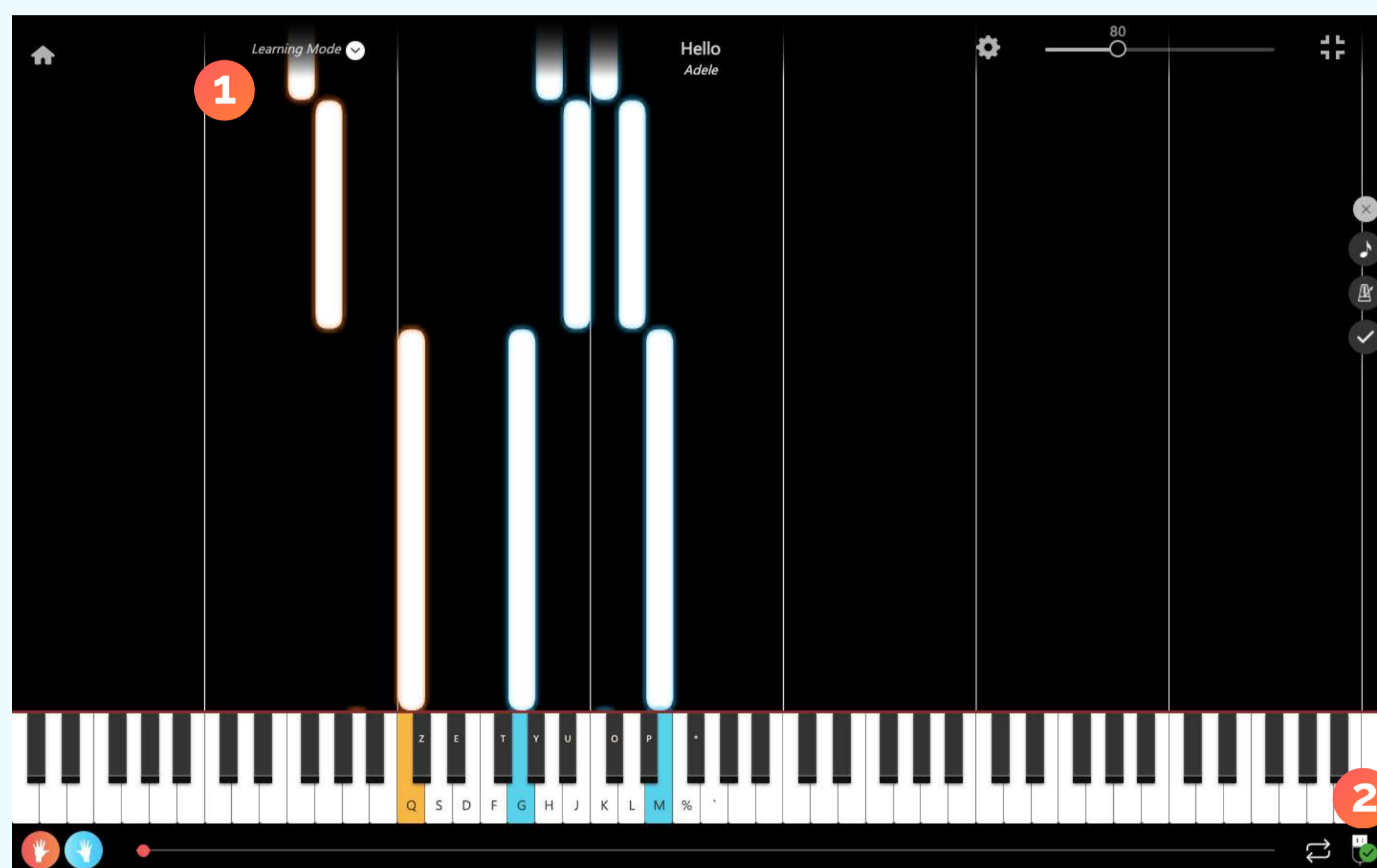
Learning mode

Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. Please note that this is a Premium song, so you need [to subscribe to the application](#) to be able to play it. The other alternative is to play the song Ave Maria by Franz Schubert on the app, which is free but will make you work on the chords much less well. Use the search bar at the top right to find these two songs.

[Go to Hello](#)

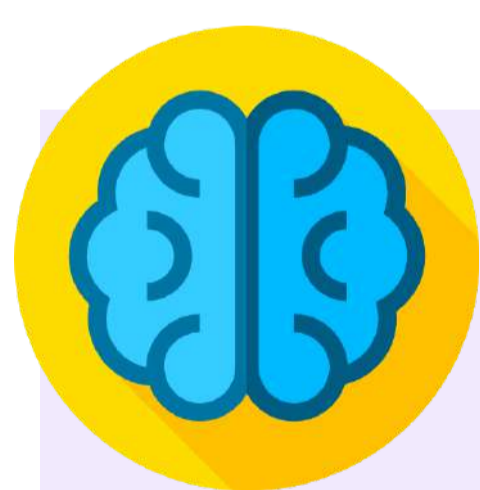


Once you are in front of the song tutorial, connect your piano via USB and activate the learning mode. Practice the first notes of Adele's Hello for 15-20 minutes with both hands at the same time using the learning mode.



1 Learning mode activated

2 Piano connected



MEMORIZATION

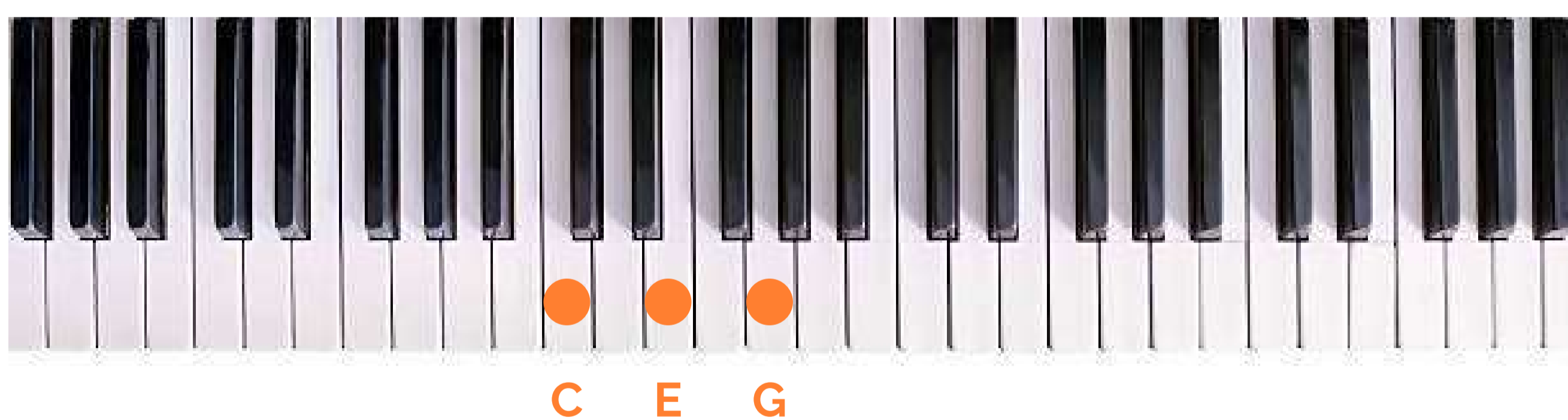
To close this session, your goal is to play the first 20 notes of the song with both hands from memory. Do this exercise for about 10 minutes (you can use the app if you are ever lost at certain moments).

Session 12: Minor chords

This new session will be devoted to minor chords, which will complete your repertoire of chords after you have learned how to make up major chords.

Minor chords are more melancholy than major chords when played on the piano. They are the most commonly used chords in your favorite pop and rock songs. To get the minor key of a piano chord, you simply decrease the major third by a semitone: it then becomes a minor third. For example, if your C major chord is: C - E - G, you just have to decrease your E by a semitone to get the C minor chord. This will give: C - E flat - G.

C major chord



C minor chord



E
↓
E flat
(notated
E ♭)

Here are the most famous minor chords:

The C minor chord: C - E flat - G

The C# minor chord: C# - E - G#

The D minor chord: D - F - A

The E flat minor chord: E flat - G - B flat

The E minor chord: E - G - B

The F minor chord: F - A flat - C

The F# minor chord: F# - A - C#

The G minor chord: G - B flat - D

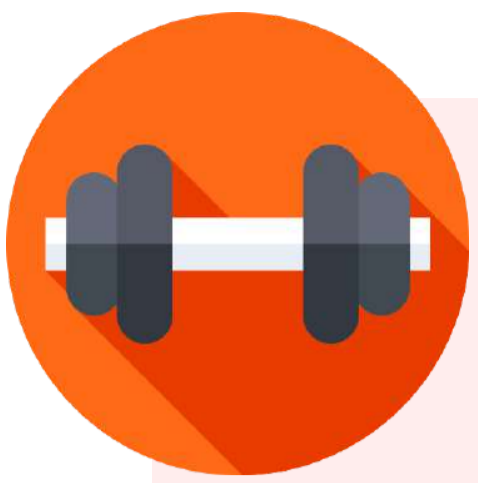
The A flat minor chord: A flat - C flat - E flat

The A minor chord: A - C - E

The B flat minor chord: B flat - D - F

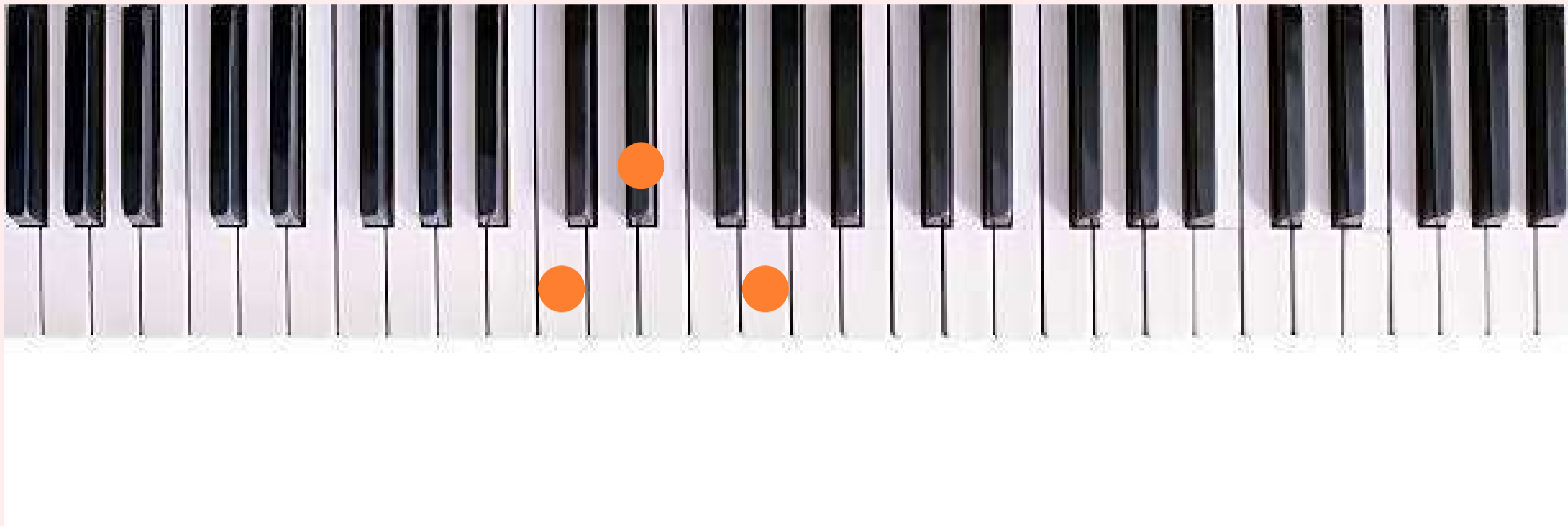
The B minor chord: B - D - F#

These 12 basic chords are the most commonly played of the piano minor scale. Practice these chords and make the pop and rock songs you love sound great!

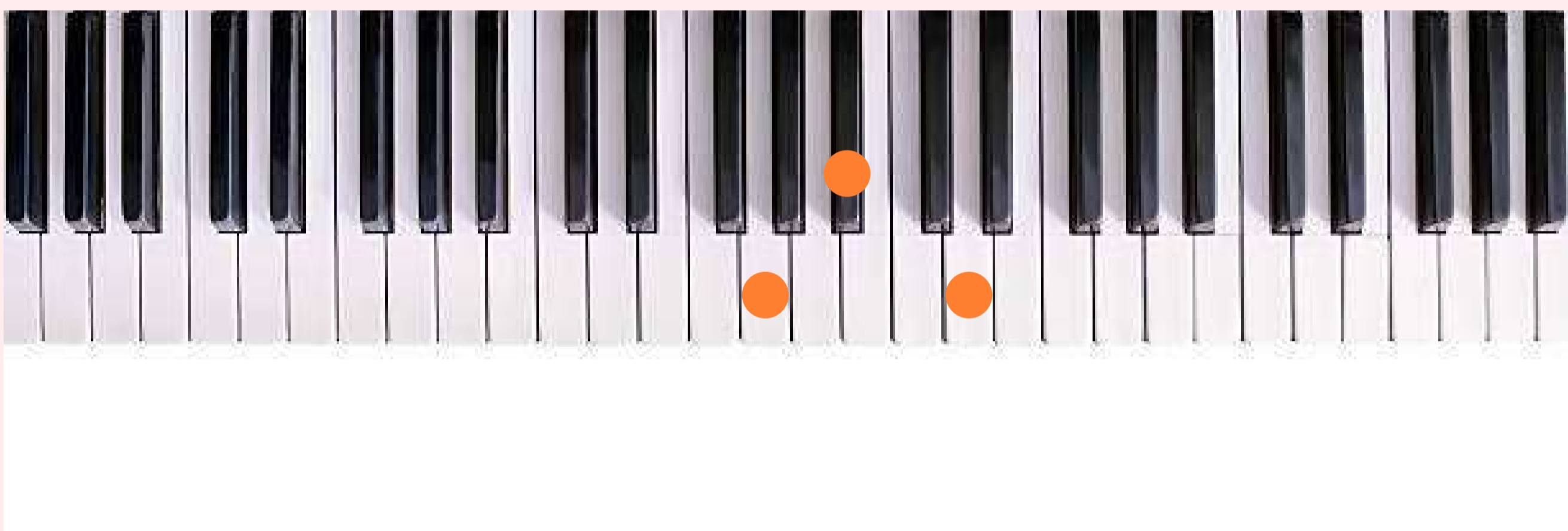


EXERCISES

1) What chords are they?



Answer: C minor chord



Answer: G minor chord

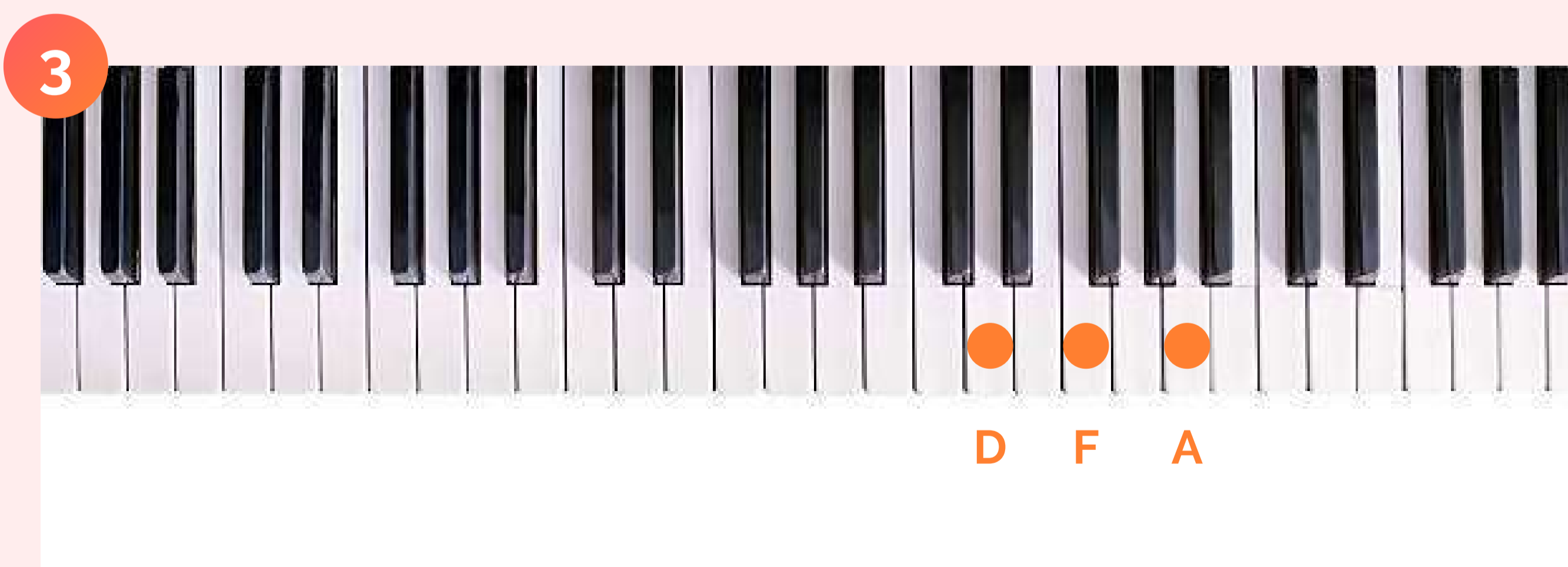
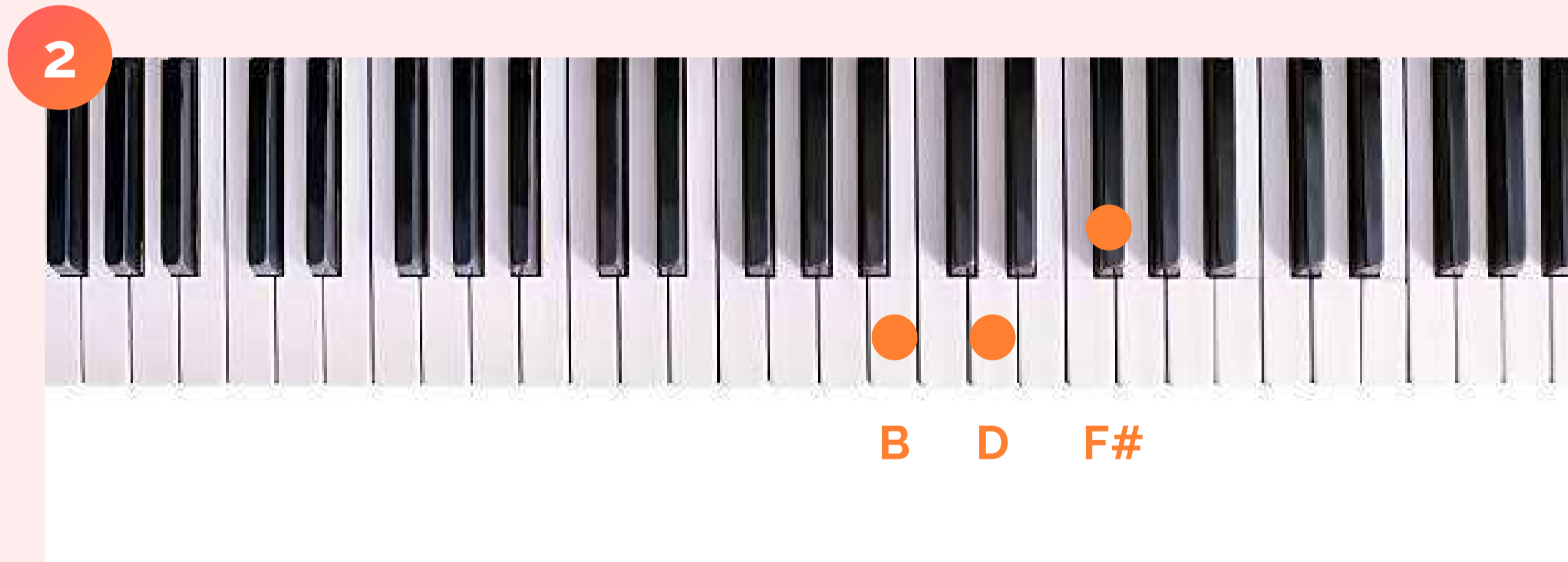


Answer: B minor chord

2) String together 3 minor chords

It is by repeating the chords one after the other in every possible way that you will progress and even be able to improvise afterwards.

For this exercise, you will have to repeat the A minor chord, the B minor chord and the D minor chord.



Do these 3 chords first in a row for 5 to 10 minutes. Once you feel comfortable, do them in any order for 5 to 10 minutes and, why not, insert other minor chords to start improvising!

To help you practice this exercise, you can download our MIDI file below and import it into the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play it with an interactive lesson.

[DOWNLOAD THE EXERCISE IN MIDI](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)

Feel free to repeat this exercise every week for a few minutes to improve your chord progressions.



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



Beyonce

Halo

Informations

Genre : pop / RnB

Difficulty: medium

Status : Paid

Setup

USB connection of the piano

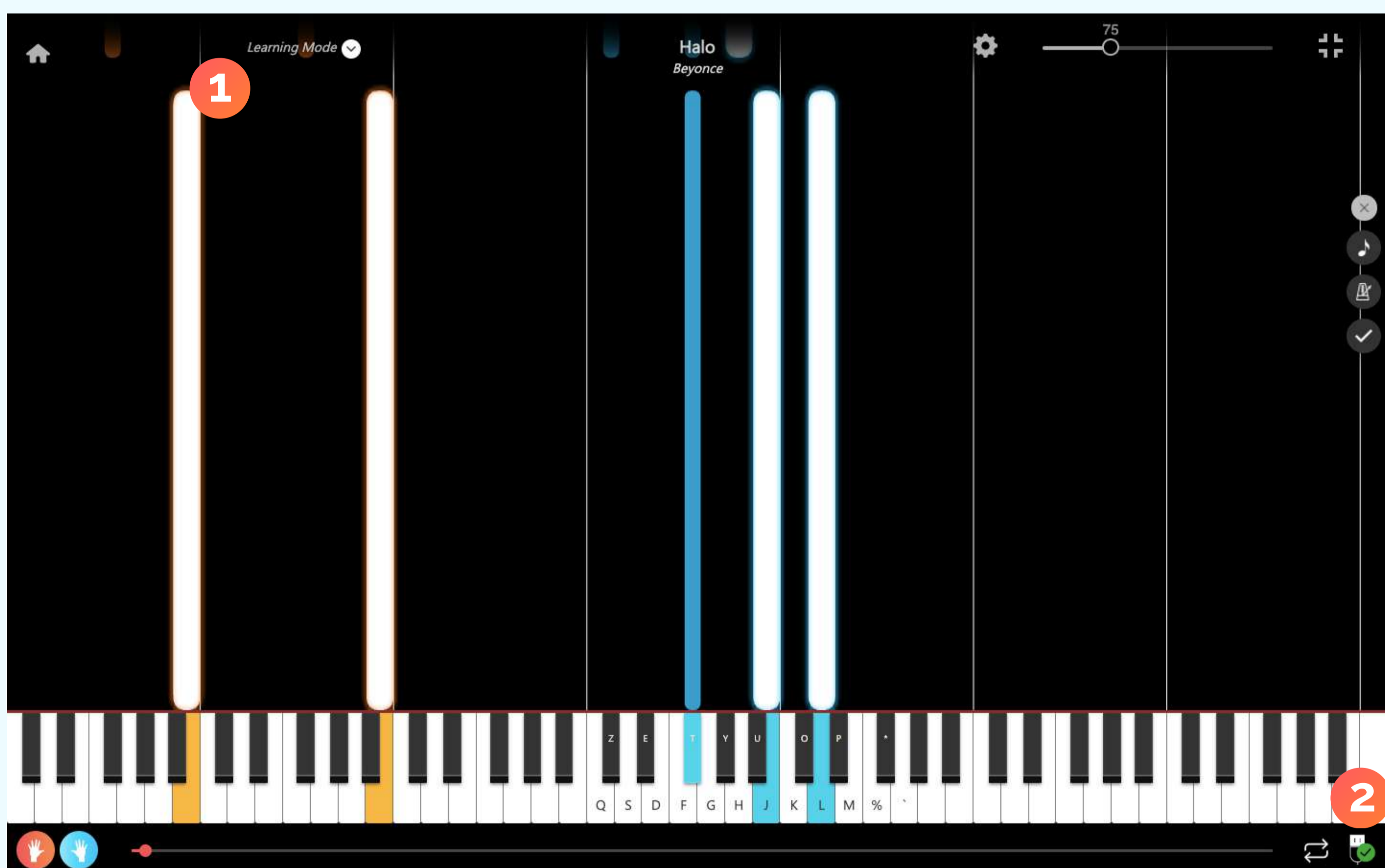
Learning mode

Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. Please note that this is a premium song, so you need to [subscribe to the application](#) to be able to play it. The other alternative is to play the song "Ave Maria" by Franz Schubert on the app, which is free but will make you work much less on your fingering. Type these titles in the search bar at the top right to find these 2 songs.

[Go to Halo](#)



Once you are in front of the song tutorial, connect your piano via USB and activate the learning mode. Practice the first notes of Beyonce's Halo for 15-20 minutes with both hands at the same time using the learning mode.



- 1 Learning mode activated
- 2 Piano connected



MEMORIZATION

To close this session, your goal is to play the first 40 notes of the song with both hands from memory. Do this exercise for about 10 minutes (you can use the app if you are ever lost at certain moments).

Week 7



Piano fingering

Session 13: Fingering - Repeating notes close together

Let's start a new week with a theme that will help you improve your piano technique: fingering.

For all beginner pianists, it is very important to know the placement of the piano fingers in order to start on the best basis.

But why is piano fingering so important in learning the instrument? An octave contains 8 notes and the hand has only 5 fingers, so it is fundamental to use each of them well in order to have the most fluid and pleasant playing possible.

Many self-taught pianists have started playing the piano without worrying about the placement of their fingers on the keyboard and a few years later, they have difficulty playing certain pieces that require dexterity.

That's why we thought it would be interesting to devote two whole sessions to fingering.

Why is piano finger placement so important?

Whether you take piano lessons at a music school or at home, the placement of your fingers on the keyboard is fundamental to begin playing the piano. It allows you to acquire a solid technical foundation and good practice. By getting used to playing correctly, it will allow you in the long run

- use the right finger at the right time to play with more ease and fluidity;
- avoid long pauses in the music played due to large gaps between notes;
- to have less pain in the hands and to last longer thanks to the optimization of the note gaps;
- to have an aesthetic playing where the fingers are used in an optimal and logical way.

In order to start in the best conditions, it is therefore necessary to take time at the beginning to assimilate the right fingering.



General advice

To begin this session on finger placement, we'd like to give you some general tips to get you started on the piano. First, you should know that the way you move your hands affects the way you play. Poor finger placement on the piano, combined with a high playing tempo, will result in transitions out of tempo.

So it's essential that you develop good habits now and avoid the pitfalls of finger placement. Here are some of our general tips before you start:

- Don't let your hands tense up. Be comfortable playing the piano and force yourself to relax your limbs.
- Involve all your fingers in the playing process so that they are all used to having an important role.
- Avoid moving your fingers too much on the piano. Most of the time, a piece does not require much finger movement when notes are played in succession on the keyboard.
- Keep your torso upright so that you have maximum ease of movement.

- Muscle your fingers as you play to get the most out of your playing.
- Do not use your thumb to play the black keys. Most of the time, the black keys are much more easily accessible through your index finger, which is longer than your thumb. To avoid too much movement and therefore discomfort in your playing, be sure to use your other fingers more to play the black keys.

Now that you have some generic tips, let's get down to business.



A good posture to place your fingers on the keyboard

To place your hands properly on the piano, you must place your fingertips on the keyboard and raise your wrist slightly. Your wrist should not be under the piano but slightly above it in order to have maximum ease in your various movements.



Once you have this starting position, you can start playing. It is also important to bend your fingers to get more agility in your movements.



The picture above shows the correct position to adopt for maximum ease of use. You should have both hands relaxed and resting on the keyboard, fingers slightly extended and lightly touching the keys. The wrists should not be under the hands or under the piano.

This ideal position allows you to avoid muscular and articular pains. Indeed, if you play for a long time with a bad position of the hands and fingers, it can lead to tendonitis or other problems.

Now let's get into the logic of finger movements.

Follow the logic imposed by the movement

When faced with a sequence of notes to play on the piano, you need to ask yourself about the logic of the movement.

For example, when you see that notes are strung together side by side, you can simply use the next finger (or the one before if the note is lower on the piano keyboard) to play the next note.

The logic of movement is not something mathematical, but it helps you get your bearings so you can be as comfortable as possible.

To do this, don't hesitate, when you play several notes in a row on a passage of the piece, to try several finger combinations. This will allow you to see which one you feel most comfortable with.

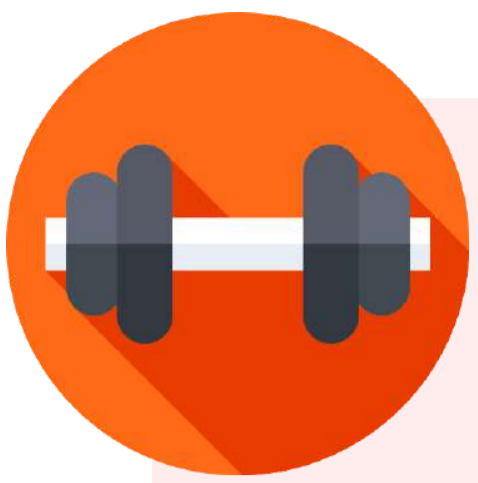
Finger numbering on the piano

There is a commonly accepted numerical technique in music theory for using your fingers correctly on the piano.

To do this, simply assign each of your fingers a number from 1 to 5 for both hands. Here is the number to assign to each finger:

- The thumb: number 1
- Index finger: number 2
- Middle finger: number 3
- The ring finger: number 4
- The little finger: number 5.





EXERCISES

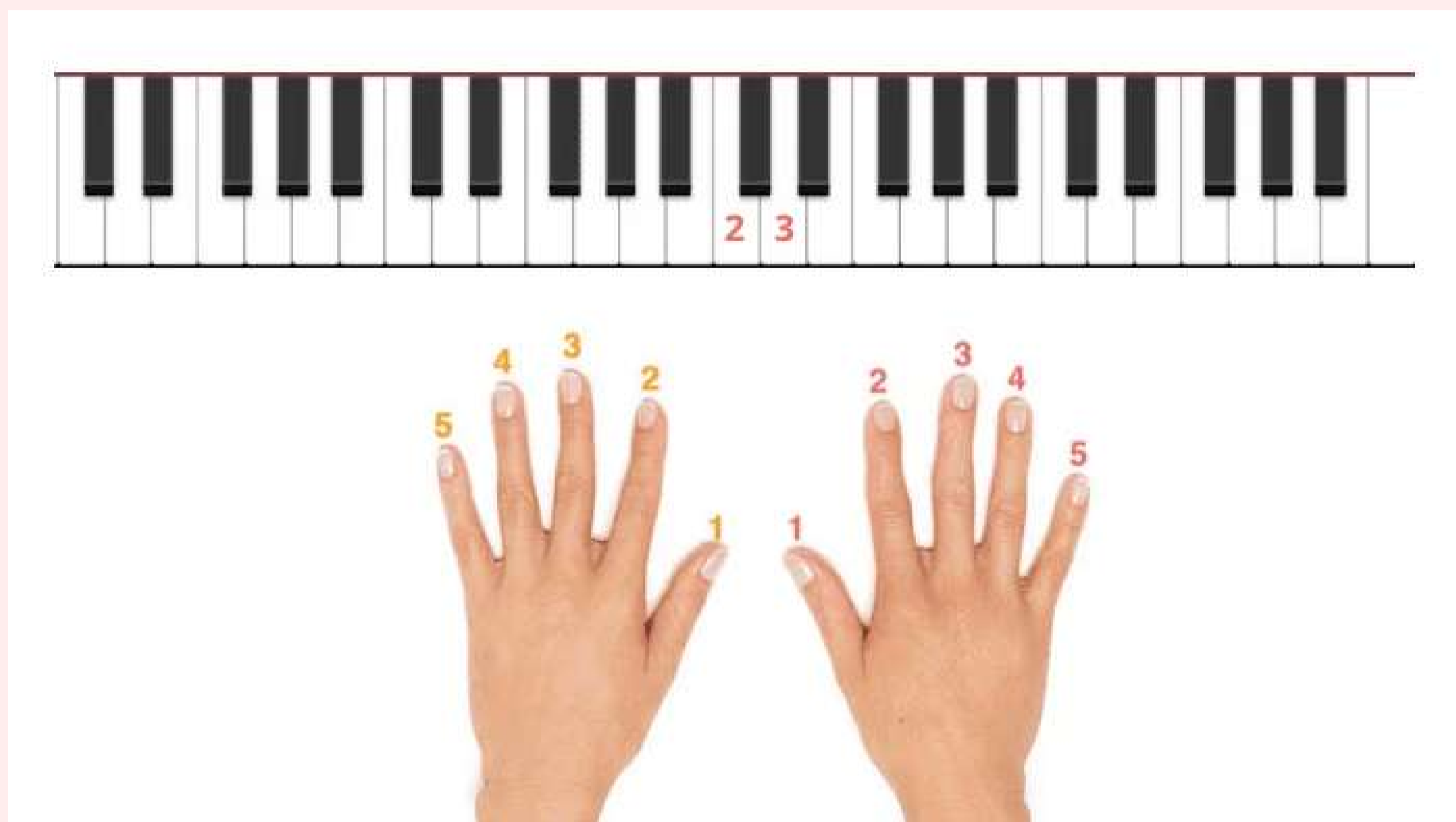
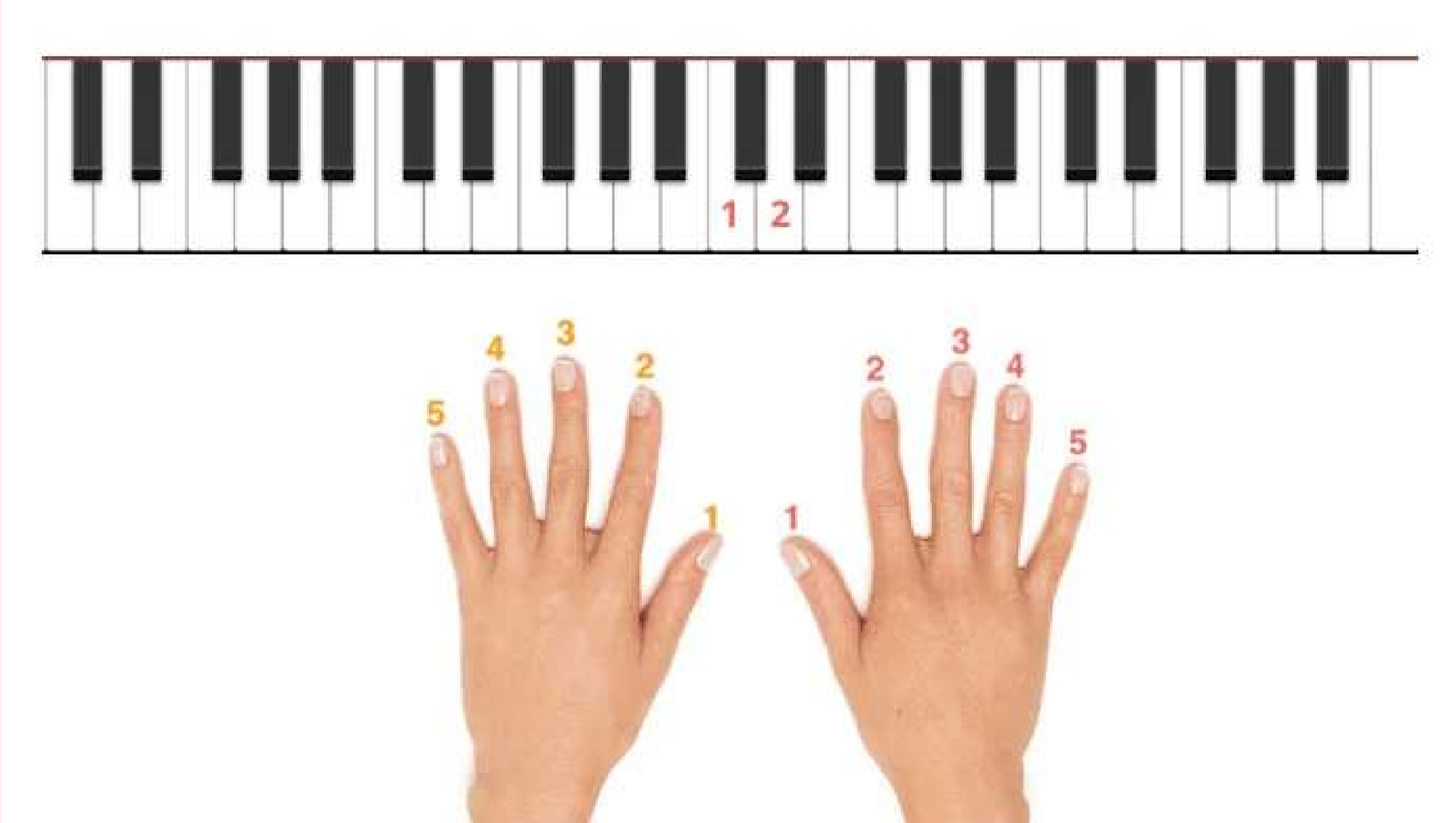
We will practice our fingering with the close note technique.

Start by placing two of your fingers (any two) on two adjacent piano keys. Play them one after the other at a steady pace and with the same velocity. Once you have mastered the tempo, you can of course speed up or slow down to practice different rhythms.

As soon as you feel comfortable, switch fingers. For example, if you started with your thumb and index finger, you can choose your index and middle finger. Repeat the same exercise with these two new fingers.

Focus on the fingers you are least comfortable with on the keyboard (usually the ring and little fingers).

When you first start playing the piano, it is important to begin each session with an exercise like this to strengthen your fingers and get them used to sequencing movements.



Do this exercise with all your fingers in a row. The idea is to untie them as much as possible with fluid and repeated movements.

To help you practice this exercise, you can download our MIDI file below and import it into [the La Touche Musicale application](#) to play it with an interactive lesson.

[DOWNLOAD THE EXERCISE IN MIDI](#) 

[How to import a MIDI file on La Touche Musicale?](#)

Do not hesitate to repeat this exercise every week for a few minutes to improve your fingering and your different note sequences.



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



Ludwig Van Beethoven

Für Elise

Informations

Genre : classical music

Difficulty: medium

Status : free

Setup

USB connection of the piano

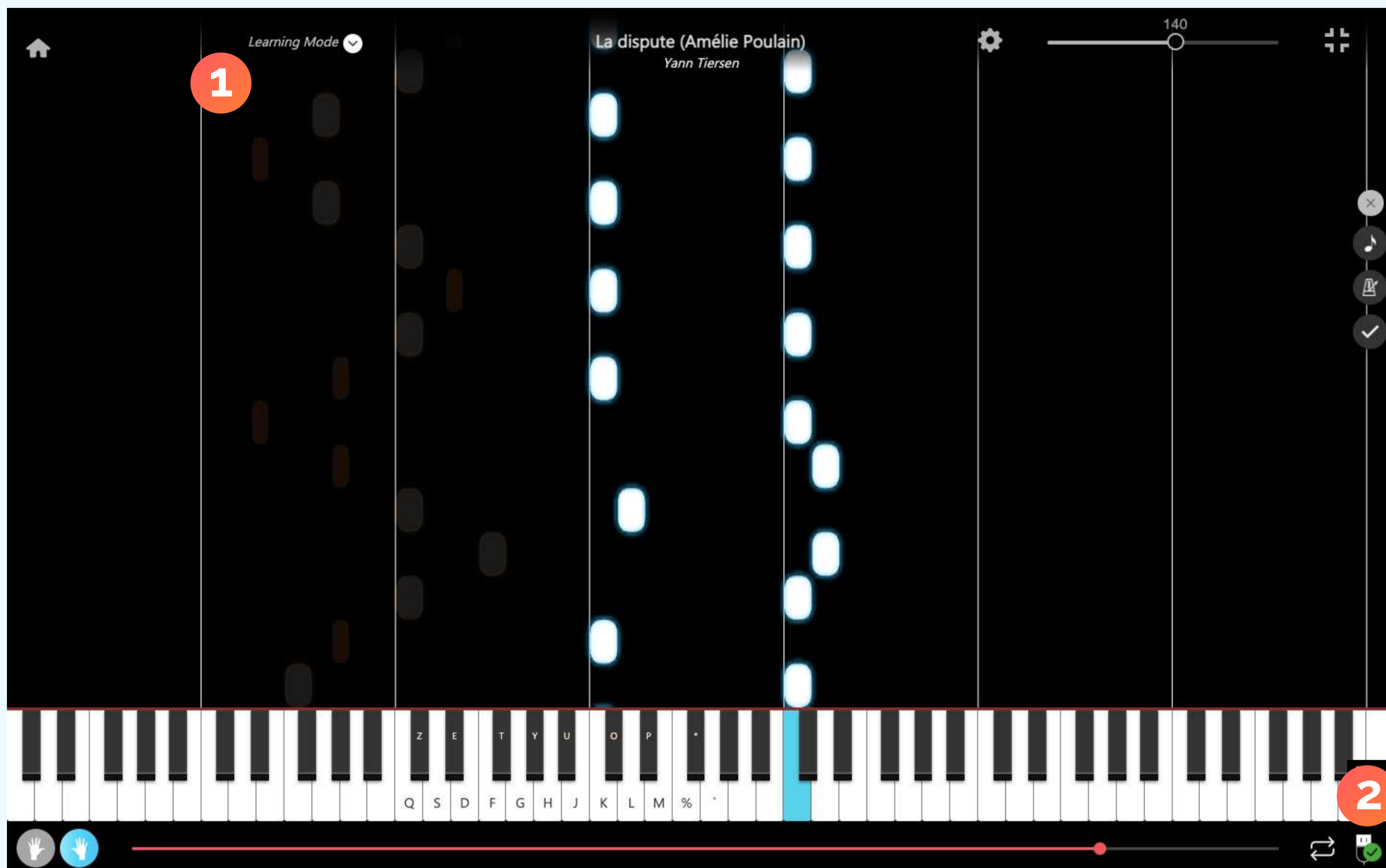
Learning mode

Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice your fingering.

[Go to Für Elise](#)

Once you are in front of the song tutorial, connect your piano via USB and activate the learning mode. Practice the first notes of Beyonce's Halo for 15-20 minutes with both hands at the same time using the learning mode.





1 Learning mode activated

2 Piano connected



MEMORIZATION

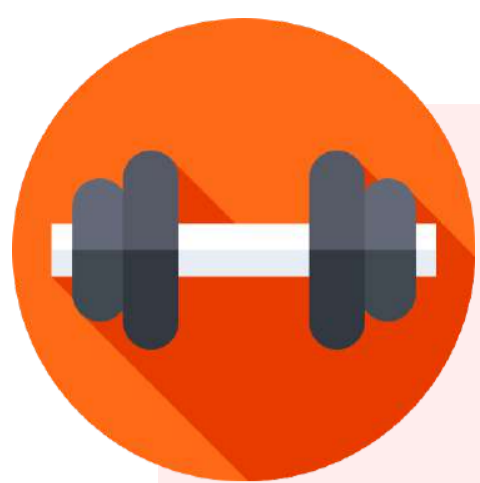
To close this session, your goal is to play the first 20 notes of the song Für Elise with both hands from memory. Do this exercise for about ten minutes (you can use the app if you are ever lost at certain moments).

Session 14: Fingering - Repetition of distant notes

This new session will be devoted to continuing the efforts we have begun to perfect our piano fingering.

This time, if you need to remember our tips and good practices on this topic, we invite you to reread the beginning of session 13.

Today we will work on fingering through a new exercise: the repetition of distant notes.



EXERCISES

For this piano fingering exercise, the principle is more or less the same as the previous one: you have to play two notes one after the other in a loop with two fingers. The difference is mainly in the distance between these two notes.

In the previous exercise, the notes were next to each other. In this exercise, the notes must have a larger distance (also called "interval" in music theory) and must be played by two fingers that are not next to each other.

Let's take as an example the C of an octave and the C of the higher octave (separated by 7 white keys). To play these two notes consecutively without moving your hand, you will have to play them with your thumb and little finger.



Playing these two notes consecutively with your thumb and little finger can hurt your hand. To smooth out your movement and avoid being too tense on exercises or songs that require large finger splits, we recommend swinging your wrist. Swing your wrist slightly to the right when you press the C with your pinky, and to the left when you press with your thumb.

For this exercise, you can choose the distance you want between the two notes. But for it to be really effective, we advise you not to go below 4 notes between the two notes you play consecutively.



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



Yann Tiersen

La dispute

Informations

Genre : romantic

Difficulty : difficult

Status : Paid

Setup

USB connection of the piano

Learning mode

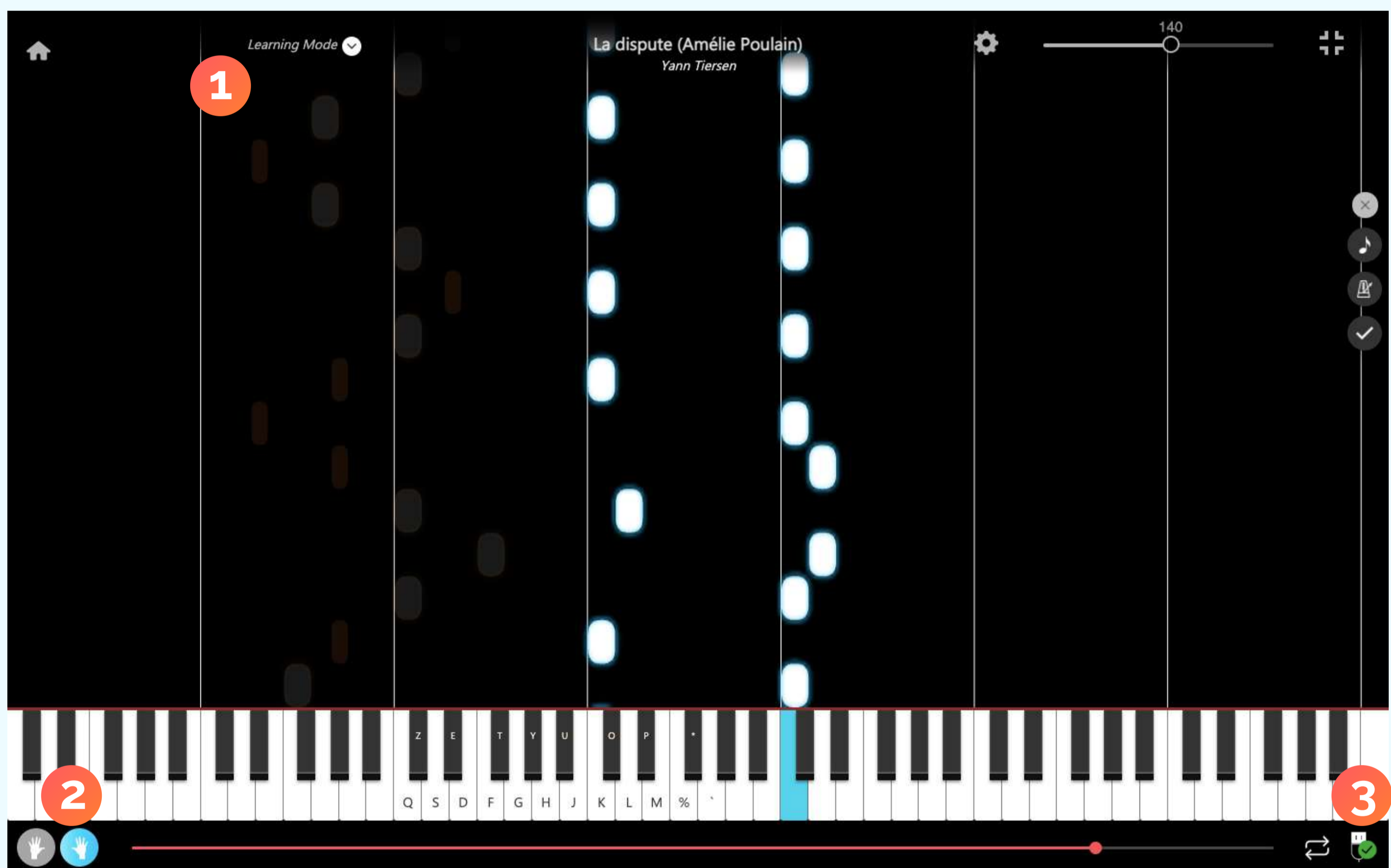
Left hand disabled

Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. Please note that this is a Premium song, so you need to [subscribe to the application](#) to be able to play it. The other alternative is to play the song "une danse onirique" (last passages) on the app, which is free but will make you work much less on your fingering. Use the search bar on the top right to find these two songs.

[Go to La dispute](#)



Once in front of the song tutorial, connect your piano to the USB port and activate the learning mode. Practice for 15-20 minutes the last notes of the penultimate sequence of Yann Tiersen's La dispute with your right hand using the learning mode. This is the sequence where the notes in the right hand require very wide fingers.



- 1 Learning mode activated
- 2 Left hand disabled
- 3 Piano connected



MEMORIZATION

To close this session, your goal is to play the last 50 notes of the song with your right hand from memory. Do this exercise for about 10 minutes (you can use the app if you are ever lost at certain moments).

Week 8



The rhythm

Session 15: Playing in the beats of the metronome

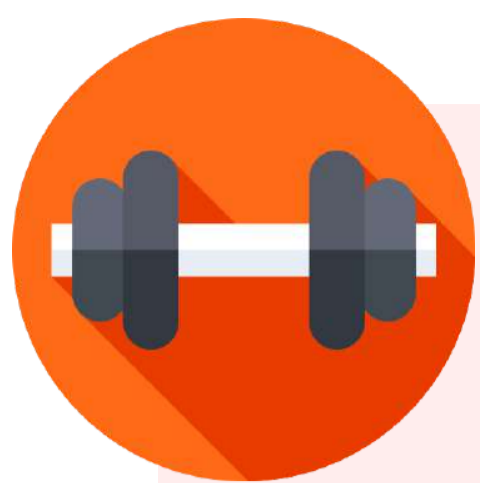
Let's start this new week with a work that was cruelly missing until now: rhythm.

In music, a beat is actually set to the notion of tempo, which represents the speed of the pulsations of the music. What is a pulse? It is simply a regular beat that tells us at what precise moment time begins. Tempo is measured in a special unit called "beats per minute" (or BPM), which tells us how many beats are in 60 seconds. Of course, the more beats you increase the number of beats in a minute, the faster the song will be. Usually, musicians use an object called a metronome to measure the tempo and work in the right time.



It is also important to know the notion of rhythm when approaching the practice of music. Music is in fact a succession of sounds and silence, the sequence of which forms what is called rhythm. This concept is therefore closely linked to the notions of time (or duration) of notes, rests and measures.

To work on rhythm, we're going to do some exercises using a virtual metronome.



EXERCISES

For this first exercise, we are going to work on your rhythm using a metronome. There are three ways to use a metronome:

- 1) You have a Premium account on The Musical Touch app, in which case you can use the metronome feature on the learning interface. If you want to try the Premium version of the app, [you can choose your offer on this page](#).
- 2) You don't have a Premium account on the La Touche Musicale application, in which case you can use [the online metronome proposed in the Google search](#).
- 3) You already have a physical metronome at home, in which case we invite you to use it.

Start by setting the metronome to 60 BPM (on the La Touche Musicale app, you just need to set the note speed slider to 60, the metronome will automatically set itself to that).

Once this is done, we can get to work.

Let the metronome play in a vacuum and listen to the pulses. As explained in the theory part of this session, each pulse you hear corresponds to a musical beat.

The goal is that you play a note at the beginning of each beat, that is, exactly at the moment when the pulse occurs. This requires listening first, then anticipation. Practice matching the sound of the metronome exactly.

Repeat this exercise for 10-15 minutes.

It is important to note that this rhythm work should be done quite often, probably once a week. This will allow you to considerably improve your piano playing.



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



Traditional

Bella Ciao (La Casa de Papel)

Informations

Genre : tradition / series

Difficulty: easy

Status : free

Setup

USB connection of the piano

Play mode

Speed at 60 BPM

Scores activated

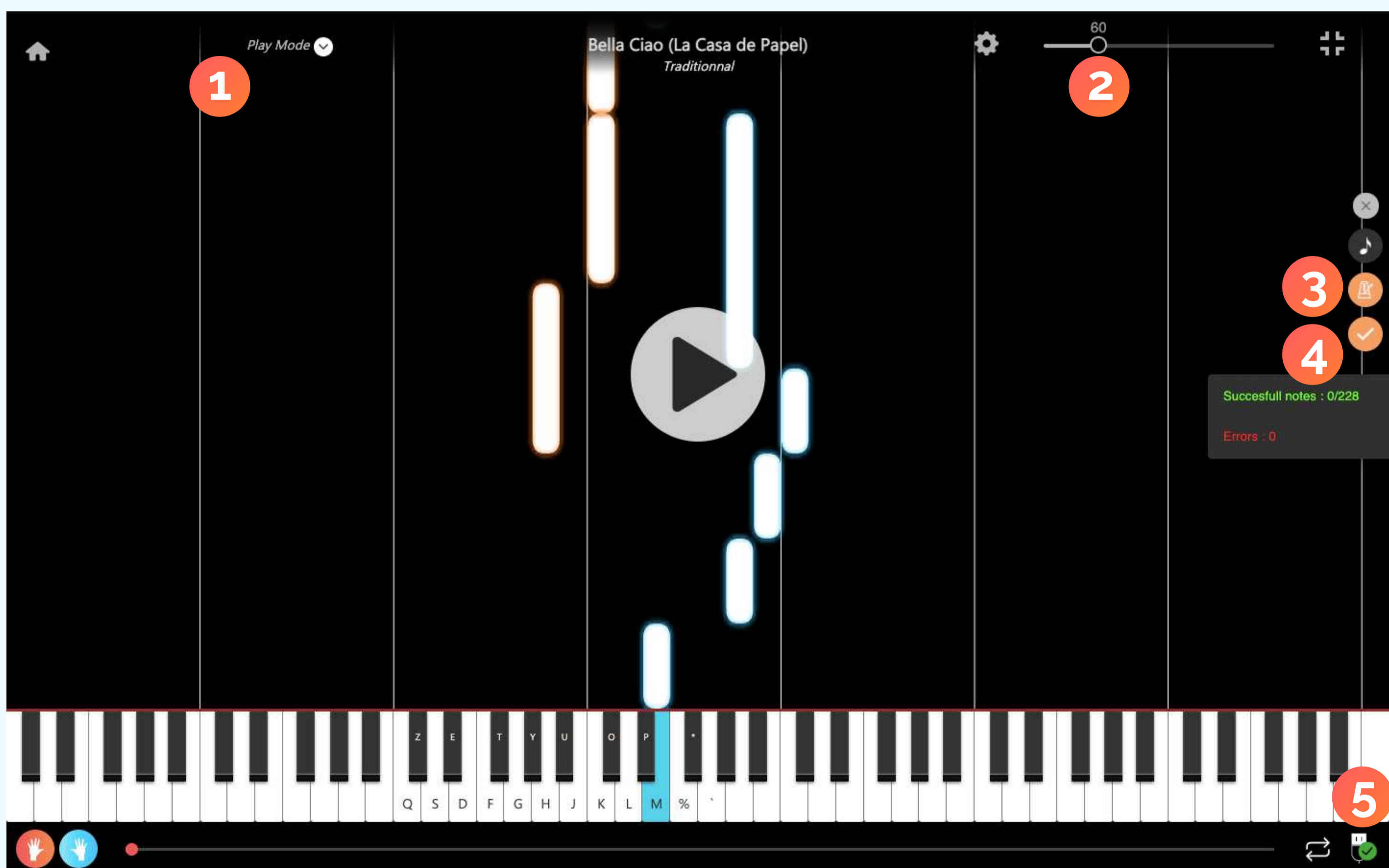
Metronome activated (Premium)

Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. Please note that this is a free song, but the metronome is a premium feature. Therefore, you need [to subscribe to the application](#) in order to activate it. Otherwise, you can use [the Google search metronome](#) on another tab, but then you will have to set the BPM on the platforms to match the tempo of the song to the BPM.

[Go to Bella Ciao](#)



Once in front of the song tutorial, connect your piano to USB, activate the play mode, activate the score display, set the speed to 60 BPM and activate the metronome (Premium). Practice for 15-20 minutes playing the first notes of Bella Ciao with both hands at the same time. The goal is to play the notes in the right tempo, as indicated by the metronome. Listen to the beat of the metronome to play in rhythm. Use the score display on the right to see if the notes you play are counted as right (in the right tempo) or wrong (wrong tempos or notes).



- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Play mode activated | 4 Scores activated |
| 2 Speed at 60 BPM | 5 Piano connected |
| 3 Metronome on (Premium) | |



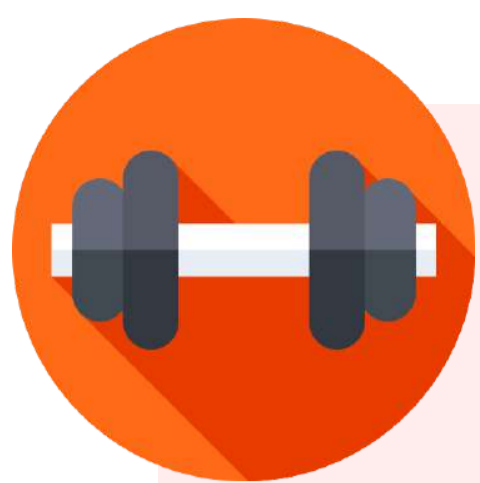
MEMORIZATION

To close this session, your goal is to play the first 20 notes of the song with both hands from memory in the right rhythm. Do this exercise for about 10 minutes (you can use the app if you are ever lost at certain moments).

Session 16: playing outside the metronome beats

We are now coming to the last session of this lesson plan, still dedicated to rhythm and tempo. This session will change from the previous one in that it will make you work outside the beats of the metronome.

By "beats" we mean the pulses emitted by the metronome. When we play a song, each beat is usually composed of several notes and chords. The idea here is to make you play not only in time but also out of time to understand the rhythmic structure of a song. That is to say that you will have to play a note when you hear the metronome pulse, but also another note when you are in the middle of the time, that is to say between two metronome pulses. So you have to play two notes between each pulse, at a regular rhythm.



EXERCISES

For this first exercise, we are going to work on your rhythm using a metronome. There are three ways to use a metronome:

- 1) You have a Premium account on The Musical Touch app, in which case you can use the metronome feature on the learning interface. If you want to try the Premium version of the app, [you can choose your offer on this page](#).
- 2) You don't have a Premium account on the La Touche Musicale application, in which case you can use [the online metronome proposed in the Google search](#).
- 3) You already have a physical metronome at home, in which case we invite you to use it.

Start by setting the metronome to 60 BPM (on the La Touche Musicale app, you just need to set the note speed slider to 60, the metronome will automatically set itself to that).

Once this is done, we can get to work.

Let the metronome play in a vacuum and listen to the pulses. As explained in the theory part of the previous session, each pulse you hear corresponds to a musical beat.

The objective of this exercise is that you play two notes: a first note at the moment when the metronome emits a pulse, and a second note in the middle of the beat, i.e. at the moment that separates the two pulses.

Let's take a concrete example: if the metronome pulses every second, you will have to play a note every 0.5 second. The first note should be played at the same time as the pulse, and the second should be played in the middle of the beat, before the second pulse arrives.

If you feel comfortable with the tempo, you can change notes and fingers with each beat.

Repeat this exercise for 10-15 minutes.

It is still important to note that this rhythm work should be done fairly often, probably once a week. This will improve your piano playing considerably.



SONG

Go to the [La Touche Musicale application](#) to play this song.



Traditional

Bella Ciao (La Casa de Papel)

Informations

Genre : tradition / series

Difficulty: easy

Status : free

Setup

USB connection of the piano

Play mode

Speed at 120 BPM

Scores activated

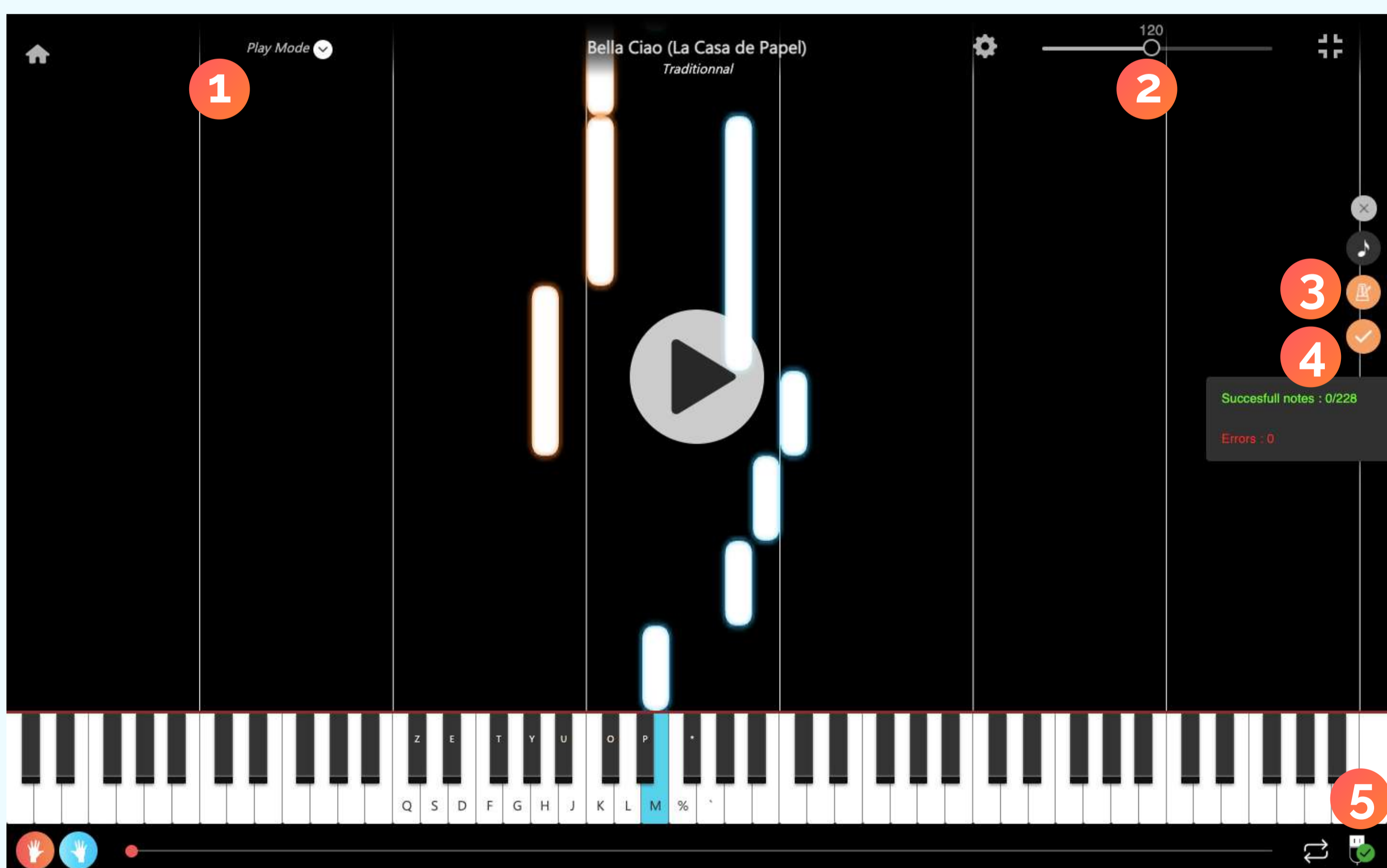
Metronome on (Premium)

Let's continue this lesson with a song that will allow you to practice. Please note that this is a free song, but the metronome is a premium feature. Therefore, you need to [subscribe to the application](#) in order to activate it. Otherwise, you can use the [Google search metronome](#) on another tab, but then you will have to set the BPM on the platforms to match the tempo of the song to the BPM.

[Go to Bella Ciao](#)



Once in front of the song tutorial, connect your piano to USB, activate the play mode, activate the score display, set the speed to 120 BPM and activate the metronome (Premium). Practice for 15-20 minutes all the notes of Bella Ciao with both hands at the same time. The goal is to play the notes in the right tempo, as indicated by the metronome. Listen to the beat of the metronome to play in rhythm. Use the score display on the right to see if the notes you play are counted as right (in the right tempo) or wrong (wrong tempos or notes).



- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Play mode activated | 4 Scores activated |
| 2 Speed at 120 BPM | 5 Piano connected |
| 3 Metronome on (Premium) | |



MEMORIZATION

To close this session, your goal is to play all the notes of the song with both hands from memory in the right rhythm. Do this exercise for about ten minutes (you can use the app if you get lost at times).

We are done with this course schedule, congratulations!

If we summarize, you will have learned during these months to :

- ✓ position yourself correctly in front of a piano (sitting, position of the fingers, position of the wrists, forearms, body, ...)
- ✓ recognize the names of the notes on a piano keyboard
- ✓ play fluently with the right hand
- ✓ play fluently with the left hand
- ✓ play fluently with both hands

- ✓ play major and minor scales
- ✓ play major and minor chords
- ✓ improve your fingering, fluency and technique
- ✓ play in rhythm and in time with the song
- ✓ memorize songs, notes and chords more easily and quickly

Now you have acquired the basics of piano playing. You can now learn songs much more easily and above all you have acquired good practice habits. To go further, you can consult our other articles on latouchemusical.com/en/articles-en or search for new information, tips and lessons on the internet.

If you have any questions or comments about these courses or the [La Touche Musicale app](#), we remain available to help you throughout your learning process.



Now move on to piano practice

La Touche Musicale is an interactive online application that offers more than 2500 songs to learn easily on the piano.

- ✓ Connect your piano keyboard via USB
- ✓ Choose your songs according to your skill level
- ✓ Learn at your own pace in the best conditions

TRY LA TOUCHE MUSICALE



La Touche Musicale